



**SURMA VALLEY BRANCH**

# **Indian Tea Association.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

## **GENERAL COMMITTEE**

*For the year ending 30th June 1931.*

**Including a list of tea estates, members of the  
Association, corrected to 31st August, 1931.**

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**With Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting  
held on 25th February, 1931.**

**Calcutta:**

**PRINTED AT THE STAR PRINTING WORKS,  
30, SHIBNARAIN DAS LANE.**

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## SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SURMA VALLEY BRANCH, INDIAN TEA ASSO-  
CIATION, held at the Amusement Club, Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 25th February 1921.

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### PRESENT:

MR. A. F. STUART, <i>Chairman</i> .	MR. O. F. HAMILTON.
„ H. M. JAMES, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> .	„ J. W. MCKAY.
„ F. J. HEATHCOTE, <i>M.L.C.</i>	„ G. C. K. MERRY.
„ H. N. MCKENZIE.	„ C. W. ALEXANDER.
„ C. N. W. GRIMSHAW.	„ WM. P. ARCHIBALD.
„ A. G. MORRIS.	„ I. MCHARDY.
„ A. CAPE.	„ A. KEITH MURRAY.
„ T. E. HOLBROOK.	„ V. F. UEBBUTT.
„ D. PATERSON.	„ J. L. BOYACK.
„ R. H. HOSSACK.	„ A. F. C. BARNES.
„ A. BROWN.	„ J. S. MERCER.
„ F. M. ANDERSON.	„ T. C. NEEMS.
„ A. B. BEDDOW.	„ ALLAN MACKENZIE.
„ S. A. PEARSON.	„ A. MACKENZIE.
„ H. G. WEBB.	„ G. G. HILLS.
„ H. L. BIGGE.	„ C. J. SHOREY.
„ T. A. EVERARD.	„ H. M. GIRLING.
„ H. SINCLAIR.	„ S. R. BLAIR.
„ F. W. CARPENTER.	„ V. G. EVERY.
„ H. F. CLARK.	„ A. T. DAVIES.
„ D. TULLOCH.	„ A. CLELAND.
„ D. BROWN.	„ W. LAWIE.
	„ J. H. WOTHERSPOON.

MR. J. D. JOWITT.	MR. J. S. RAE.
„ A. B. MARTIN.	„ A. F. BENDALL.
„ R. B. LUNGLEY.	„ E. H. ADAMS.
„ H. S. FOOTH.	„ W. D. S. REID.
„ W. E. LEGGE.	„ J. MCINTOSH.
„ C. W. MORLEY.	„ C. FLANAGIN.
„ F. ROSS JONES.	„ H. E. BENNETT.
„ B. M. GUPTA.	„ GEO. GRAY.
„ J. W. HALLAN.	„ C. E. EWING.
„ H. A. WRAY.	„ J. R. WATSON.
„ V. KNOTT.	„ J. K. CULLINAN.
„ J. R. ATKINSON.	„ N. H. D. LUCKMAN.
	„ H. J. CAPLE.

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, M.L.C., *Secretary*.

The following gentlemen attended the meeting by the invitation of the Committee:—

- REV. T. W. REESE.  
 MR. S. N. MACKENZIE, I.C.S., Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.  
 LT.-COL. J. L. SEN, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Sikhar.  
 MR. E. S. ROFFEY, Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.  
 „ R. L. BLISS, Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway.  
 „ C. BAKER, Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway.  
 „ A. G. MCKIE, Joint Agent, I. G. & R. S. N. Co., Fenchuganj.  
 „ C. R. HARLER, Chemist, Scientific Department, Tocklai.  
 „ M. W. WATHEN, Fields Agent, Burmah Oil Co., Badarpur.  
 „ JAMES A. MINTO, Calcutta.  
 „ N. W. DEWAR, Messrs. Macneill & Co., Calcutta.  
 „ S. A. HOLLINGSWORTH, Chittagong.  
 „ J. W. TROTMAN.  
 „ N. S. MUNDY.  
 „ M. MCCARTHY O'LEARY.  
 DR. R. J. HYDER.  
 „ W. J. DAVIS.  
 „ H. J. H. SPREADBURY.

Letters were received from the following gentlemen regretting their inability to attend :—

MR. F. C. KING, I.C.S., Chairman, Assam Labour Board.  
" J. A. MILLIGAN, Travelling Superintendent, Tea Districts  
Labour Association.  
LT.-COL. J. W. MCCOY, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Sylhet.  
LT.-COL. A. J. M. MACLAUGHLIN,  
Surgeon Commander L. B. HUNT.  
MR. P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Scientific Officer, Tocklai.  
" A. R. THOMAS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Cachar.  
" S. NYOGI, Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar.  
" A. R. LEISHMAN, President, Chittagong Chamber of  
Commerce.  
The Sub-Divisional Officer, South Sylhet.  
" " " Habiganj.  
" " " Karimganj.

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Mr. A. F. Stuart, having taken the Chair, the Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman then addressed the Meeting as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

It is once again my privilege to present to you the Report and Accounts of the Branch, but prior to giving you a synopsis of the work of your Committee I have much pleasure in extending on behalf of the Association a cordial welcome to our guests—many of whom have travelled long distances at considerable inconvenience to themselves, especially our Officiating Commissioners.

When I addressed you last year we were so steeped in pessimism that few of us had the courage left to see brighter times ahead and to-day, with the abnormal conditions prevailing all over the world, affecting every branch of trade and commerce, it is not surprising to find the Industry still saturated in depression—and in spite of the carefully conceived restriction scheme of last year, a point has now been reached at which the best concerns are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Restriction, greatly assisted by climatic conditions so far as Northern India was concerned, accounts for a total

decrease of 58,500,000 lbs. but this has been offset by the decline in consumption in most countries. United Kingdom expected, with the result that until recently there has been little improvement in prices. At date notwithstanding a more remunerative market, it is felt by producers that a continuity of last year's policy of restriction is essential and negotiations to this end are now proceeding, but your Committee are in entire accordance with the views of the Assam Branch in believing that such action is merely a palliative and unless consumption is increased, the future of the Industry must continue to cause great apprehension, while many concerns operating in this Valley can but languidly exist. I take this opportunity of reading to you a scheme put forward by the Chairman of the Assam Branch:—

“In April last this Association addressed the Calcutta Association on the subject of increasing the sale of tea in India, and suggested that arrangements should be made by that Association, or the Tea Cess Committee, to supply for sale packets containing 2 oz. and 4 oz. of tea. We also suggested that the *ad valorem* duty of 15% on all tea imported into India should be increased. These recommendations were sent home to London and the matter is still the subject of correspondence. In my opinion, with the extension of production in Java, Southern India, Kenya and other countries, restriction is merely a palliative and unless consumption is increased the future of the Industry is far from bright. The sale of common teas in India could undoubtedly be enormously increased and we should therefore do all that we can to make early arrangements to this end. The success of the Tea Cess Committee propaganda in Assam is proof that similar success would be forthcoming in other parts of India if tea was available for sale to the rural population throughout India and in my opinion we are neglecting the best market for increased consumption.

I will now read my remarks on this subject made to the General Committee at their meeting yesterday and then ask Mr. Turnock, the Tea Cess representative, to inform you of his recent work in Assam.

I am aware of the steps which you have taken during my absence to impress on the Calcutta and London Associations the urgent necessity of taking advantage of the enormous market available in India for the consumption of a large quantity of our stocks of tea. Your efforts have unfortunately not met with the success they deserve and, as I know all up country Associations agree with our views on this matter, I consider we should continue to press for immediate action to be taken with a view to increasing consumption in India. If this is not done at once we shall have to face disaster in the near future.

As far as I remember, the distributors in England reduced the price of the 1 lb. canister by 4*d.* before the 23rd April 1929, when the duty of 4*d.* per lb. on Foreign and 3½*d.* per lb. on Empire Tea, was repealed. Notwithstanding the fact that prices have since that date dropped by about 6*d.* per lb. the distributors have made no further reduction and they are therefore making the exorbitant profit at the present time of anything between 6*d.* and 1*s.* per lb. The buyers are now I believe reduced from 8 to 4, and in consequence they have a practical monopoly and can control prices, with the result the producers are entirely in their hands and in very many cases producing at a loss. We have therefore now to fight for our very existence and there are two methods available. One is to compel the distributors to reduce their prices with a view to increasing consumption and the other is to take steps ourselves to increase the consumption and sale of tea in India. In my opinion the latter is the method which has the better prospect of success and I therefore consider we should put forward to the Calcutta and London Associations the following scheme and impress upon them the urgent necessity of action being immediately taken to carry it into effect. I very much regret that our former suggestions met with such a lukewarm reception in Calcutta, but, since they were considered, the position has become worse and there is at present little chance of its improvement. Under these circumstances it is our duty to put forward the best scheme we can suggest as a remedy and to ask them to take immediate steps to adopt either that scheme, or any other better scheme which they may be able to suggest.

In my opinion the Tea Cess Committee have failed to take full advantage of the huge possibilities in India and that therefore the new scheme should be placed under the management of the Indian

Tea Association, Calcutta, with the necessary funds contributed by the Tea Cess.

The scheme consists of a Packing Centre Factory, in order to assure a standard blend, with a tobacco packing type of machine for one oz. packets, with the price printed thereon *i.e.*, "Indian Tea, Two pice per ounce." The existing price for one ounce sold by the Tea Cess distributors in the Assam Bazaars is one anna, *i.e.*, one pice packet contains  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Gardens to supply the Factory with common sweet tea at ₹. 8/- per lb. inclusive of all charges, a sample of which must first have been supplied to and accepted by a deputed Tea Taster as being up to the required standard. For distributing the Management might well adopt the successful system introduced by the Imperial Tobacco Company for distributing their cheap packets of cigarettes, *i.e.*, a travelling Assistant for a specified area, who is responsible for periodically inspecting shopkeeper's stocks, cash books etc., and for the opening of new connections where desirable. A good type of travelling Assistant is essential on the lines of those of the Imperial Tobacco Company, all of whom are I believe, Public School boys. In the event of a shopkeeper having no reliable reference in Calcutta, the V. P. P. system is recommended to ensure against thefts etc. Central Agencies in the business which introduce corners and jealousy between different castes, should be avoided. The shopkeepers profit should not exceed ₹. 1/- in the Rupee *i.e.*, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ %, and this profit might be paid from Tea Cess Funds. The profits now made by distributors are such as to prevent propaganda work. Apart from which their teas are blended with those of foreign manufacture.

One profitable means of distribution could be carried out by recruiting sardars taking with them from the Depots to their Homes one ounce packets of tea.

Taking into consideration periods of bad withering, coarse leaf, and first flush teas, it can be safely estimated that 1% of the tea crop is of an inferior type, better disposed of elsewhere than on the London market. At the present time the market value of this type of tea in Calcutta is below ₹. 8/- per lb., so that, by assisting to reduce stocks in London and improving quality by reblending the inferior tea, many estates will profit by supplying the class of tea suitable for the purpose."

To this your Committee extend their unanimous support and hope some definite action may be adopted by the controlling body of the Industry.

The subject of crop is always one closely associated with the ever-increasing factor, quality, and Mr. Harler who is with us to-day, I hope, will express his ideas on manufacture.

*Labour.*—It is understood the members of the Royal Commission on Labour are at present actively engaged in deliberation and with the drafting of their report, the publication of which we await with interest.

The inadequacy of labour continues to be felt on most estates, perhaps not as acutely as if full crops had to be harvested, but there are indications of freer recruiting as evinced by the friendly attitude of the Central Province Government by their withdrawal of section 3 Notifications in the three districts of their Province. To ensure efficient recruiting it is felt however that some form of rules as regards places of accommodation and the record of recruits, are imperative but the simplicity of these cannot be construed as to form any hardship. We are indebted to the Acting Chairman of the Assam Labour Board, Mr. J. G. Bourne, for the part he has played in obtaining this concession, and it remains with us now, by scrupulously adhering to the rules to demonstrate to other Local Governments that we can conduct without any restrictions, our own recruiting free of any corrupt or fraudulent practice, and we hope they may be pleased to extend similar concessions in their respective provinces.

It is well to emphasise the Chairman of the Tea Districts Labour Association's observations on this subject, i.e. : to remind you gentlemen that the concessions were granted almost entirely on the guarantee which the Chairman of the Indian Tea Association gave to Government that members of Tea Districts Labour Association would continue to recruit through their organisation. I need hardly stress the importance of this matter, and feel sure that the concessions will be withdrawn if members do anything to encourage independent recruiting in these areas.

*Labour Rules.*—When I had the pleasure of addressing you last year we were awaiting London and Calcutta's deliberation on the drafts as submitted by the Assam and Surma Valley Branches. This



has recently come to hand and in the form of a new set of rules framed by a Sub-Committee of the Tea Association, Calcutta. The new rules have been digested by a Sub-Committee of your Branch, and their action in preferring retention of those rules as framed by ourselves in August 1929, has been confirmed by your General Committee this morning. Mr. Roffey, who is with us to-day, as Secretary of the Assam Branch, will doubtless have some severe criticism to offer, but I would ask you Sir, to bear in mind, our proposed rules are not the results of a lawyer's brain, but the efforts of practical planters who claim, that so far as this Valley is concerned, they are equitable, in no way effect the movement of labour, but yet afford adequate protection to employers from the duplicity of a few who would welcome the abolition of all Rules in order that they might practise pumping their neighbours' labour.

*Assam European Constituency of the Legislative Assembly.* As indicated at our Annual General Meeting last year the probability of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E., being nominated to represent the European Community of Assam on the Legislative Assembly. To-day it gives me much pleasure to inform you that Mr. Fox—a former Chairman of this Branch, has taken his seat in the Assembly, and your Committee have very confidence that the interests of the Assam European Constituency will be eagerly watched and ably protected by the auspices of our representative.

Again, on this occasion I wish to extend to Mr. Chalmers, who has until quite recently filled the seat on the Assembly, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the time and trouble he has devoted to our interests. He has lately been invalided home, we trust only temporarily, and that in due course he will be restored to perfect health, permitting of his return to the Province to continue his public work which he has so gratuitously given in the past in so many directions.

*Road Board and Tea Rates Road Fund.* On the completion of the Goglacherra and Somaikona Road, anticipated this cold weather, there will be on deposit with the Government of Assam over a lakh of Rupees—a sum earmarked for the construction of the Monoo bridge. The fact that this bridge has as yet not been taken in hand, is attributable to the South Sylhet Local Board having refused to take over the bridge and maintain it in repair when completed. This difficulty has now been overcome, and it is hoped the

bridge will be completed by the end of next cold weather. Your Committee have recently been asked to put forward projects and it has been agreed by a majority, that on completion of the works now in hand, the Tea Rates Road Fund Board be asked to devote the Simga Valley allotment to the construction of a road from Monchheria to the Chargola Valley. Both the Commissioner, the Chief Engineer, and it is believed, the Military authorities, agree with us, that taking a broad view of the question—this trunk road, for which the Tea Association have pressed for the last fifteen years, is likely to benefit the greatest number of its members in making for direct and speedy communication between the Tea District of Cachar and Sylhet. We trust gentlemen, the Committee's project will meet with your approval and support.

*Kind Remarks.*—Periodically you all receive the Progress Report of this Board. The various works in hand are now well advanced for a display of greater activity would be welcome by the public. A subject which appears to the Association requiring support from the Road Board, is feeder roads to steamer stations.

Railways have been able to influence road construction and consolidation to their Stations in the Province and sometimes to the direct detriment of the Steamer Companies.

I do not suggest the Steamer Companies should have preferential treatment, only a fair field and no favour, but they have borne the brunt of the battle in opening out the Province and although it is obvious that Railways have speeded up and in the interior made transport possible in a way the Steamers could only do very slowly and only efficiently where tributary rivers made the running of feeder streams possible—yet, without the competition which the Steamer Companies offer, Railway expansion would have been slower and there is also a wholesome check on exorbitant freights and rates.

I trust our representatives on the Road Board will keep these remarks prominently in front of them at their next and subsequent meetings and use their influence to endeavour to have roads constructed to Steamer ghats as well as to Railway stations. I think the Industry would certainly benefit and alternative routes are always useful and in the event of earthquakes or revolutions Steamer transport would be preferable to rail route.

*Medical Research in Assam.*—During the past year we have witnessed the launching of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases and in collaboration with certain Tea Companies, a scheme to control malaria on Tea Estates but since its inauguration it is understood it will now extend to all India.

This Institution, sponsored by the eminent Sir Malcolm Watson, the world renowned malariologist, will be under the pilotage of Doctor Ramsay, late Medical Officer of the Tarrapore Tea Company, and judging from his former work at Labac, one is safe in saying no stone will be left unturned to make the undertaking a success. To those gentlemen who have the misfortune to manage Estates badly effected by malaria, I cannot too strongly emphasise the importance of control work and from my own personal experience, I have no hesitation in stating, no amount of concessions, increased wages or benefaction etc., will improve the health of malarious Estates until Anti-Malarial measures are adopted. Personally, I should like to see a portion of the expenditure of the entomological and the mycological department of Tocklai devoted to what seems to me a branch of science of greater importance to the Industry.

In addition to this Branch of the Ross Institute the Government of Assam have lately constituted a Provincial Research Society, and at a conference of employers of labour and representatives of Government and the Legislative Council held in Shillong last September, the Tea Association indicated, they were prepared to encourage the project. Gentlemen, probably you agree with your Committee in welcoming any campaign likely to relieve suffering but doubtless you share our apprehension of the desirability or necessity for two such organisations, but the subject has been carefully analysed by London and Calcutta and their considered opinion is that there is scope for both, and have agreed to support it for a year. With this, your Committee are dissatisfied as within our own areas we believe all diseases are controllable with the exception of Malaria, to suppress which, we have the assistance and guidance of the Ross Institute at our disposal.

If the Government of Assam feel the necessity for a scheme such as will shortly be introduced, we feel it should be conducted without any financial assistance from an already overburdened Industry, as further taxation can only assist to accelerate extinction of many concerns in this Valley.

*The Indian Statutory Commission.*—The Report of the Indian Statutory Commission has been published since our last Annual General Meeting, a Round Table Conference at London have deliberated it, and the Prime Minister has made a pronouncement. I will leave our Political Protector, Mr. Roffey to make a few remarks on the current situation and problematical future.

*Mr. E. S. Roffey's Leave.*—Mr. Roffey, as many of you are aware, shortly proceeds on leave. His agreement with us does not actually entitle him to furlough until 1932, but in view of the unlikelihood of much work this year and with the probability of prodigious political reforms next, the Assam Branch consider it advisable he should take his leave on the termination of next Council Sessions. With this your Committee entirely agree and I feel sure gentlemen, you join with me in wishing Mr. Roffey a very pleasant holiday and rest from his labour.

*Assam-Bengal Railway and Steamer Company.*—The representatives of the Assam-Bengal Railway and Steamer Company, who again show the interest they take in the Industry by honoring us with their company to-day, present an opportunity of placing before them one or two minor grievances. The grievance emanates from our Sylhet friends, but the matter is one of importance to the general public, and in this connection I invite your attention Sir, to the unsatisfactory timings of the trains on the Karimganj Branch line. At present there are no trains running in direct connection with the Up Surma Mail leaving Karimganj Junction at 6-15. Passengers from the Chargoia and Longai Valleys wishing to travel by this train under the existing timings have to arrive at Karimganj at 17-44 the previous afternoon, where they have to remain the night, not altogether under too pleasant conditions. Further, is there any logical reason why this branch line should not function on Sundays? Sir, you work the main line on the seventh day of the week, but by closing the branch you do not evade the offence of breaking the biblical law but only incur the wrath of the irate planter.

It is a matter of regret that the former concession granted our Secretary has been curtailed, and I would ask that this matter has your favourable reconsideration, and his Railway Pass, as formerly be made out and from any Station on the line under your jurisdiction.

With your permission there is one more observation I should like to make relative to a matter only brought to my attention two days ago. The question of Ambulance Stretchers. I am assured by a senior Medical Officer of our Branch, while recently travelling in charge of an invalid, that he was unable, owing to the dimensions of the stretcher, to get it into the compartment. Further comment on this I feel is unnecessary, but may we rely upon you Sir, giving this matter your usual courteous and early attention?

We appreciate and thank you Sir, for an otherwise most satisfactory service and it is a pleasure to this Association to find you at present continue as a Company and not a State Railway.

*Finance.*—I now come to deal with a subject as distasteful to you as it is unpalatable to your Committee but there is no alternative but to swallow the pill we are compelled to force on you, owing to financial commitments. I have referred previously to representation on the Assembly as also Medical Research in Assam, both of which require financing, and we have to assist with our pro rata share. In preparing an estimated expenditure of the Branch, it is found necessary, once again to enhance the rate of subscription to realise an adequate revenue, and to-day a resolution will be moved asking you to confirm the Committee's action of raising the subscription to five annas per acre. This will realise a sum sufficient to defray our commitments, as also a little extra to meet such contingencies as allowance for additional representatives on the Legislative Council, a probability under the new reform schemes that must not be lost sight of. While enhancing the rate of subscription, Indian owned gardens representing 4,014½ acres have been excluded, as it would obviously be unreasonable to ask Indian gentlemen to subscribe to the political funds of the European Constituency. I am fully aware of the blessings that would have been showered on the Committee had they been able to raise the tea market on the same ratio as has been necessary with our levee, but no amount of cursing will now meet expenditure on the schemes to which London and Calcutta have lent their countenance.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing our admiration of the Commanding Officer, and gentlemen of the Surma Valley Light Horse, who last April played such an important part at Chittagong.

The efficient organising and the despatch of a detachment in a minimum of time reflects the greatest credit on the Commanding Officer and Headquarters Staff and strengthens the confidence this Association has always had in the Surma Valley Light Horse. The dastardly outrage at Chittagong forcibly impresses the necessity of every young Assistant in these days making himself an efficient soldier, and the exigency of introducing wireless stations throughout the Province has been fully exemplified by the ships in Chittagong port at the time of the outrage. It is a subject on which we again approach the Government to favourably reconsider and Members of Council not to lose sight of.

*Planters' Benevolent Fund.*—Notwithstanding the depressing times we have to face, it is satisfactory to record the donation we were able to remit to the governing body, exceeded the amount of the previous year. To all those who so kindly subscribed and to Chairman of District Committees for the trouble they took in collecting subscriptions, I tender my sincerest thanks and trust their assistance will again be available during the current year.

To those gentlemen who represent us on Council and others who devote much time on bodies such as Assam Labour Board, Indian Tea Cess Committee etc., we extend our appreciation and thanks and I personally conclude my address by thanking the members of our General Committee who do so much to lighten the work of the Chair.

Mr. Cooper as Secretary continues to bear the strain of ever increasing work with his usual efficiency and I know I voice the feelings of this Branch when I say "Thank you Sir."

*Financial Position and Membership of the Association.*—A statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1930, and the Annual Report of the Branch for the year ending 30th June 1930, which have already been circulated to all members, showed that the subscriptions for the year amounted to Rs. 21,986/- including the arrear subscription of previous year and the Office Allowance of Rs. 1,200/- received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 24,052/- and expenditure to Rs. 18,915/- leaving a cash balance of Rs. 5,137/- to be carried forward.

The Association now represents 161 Estates with an acreage of 133,732½ acres as against 134,848 acres for the previous year.

Only one new garden (Sribari T. E. in Sylhet) has joined the Association.

I now beg to propose that the action of the General Committee in raising the subscription of European controlled Estates,—Members of the Branch to five annas per acre, be now confirmed.

This was seconded by Mr. H. M. James.

Before putting this to vote, I will ask the Secretary to read a paper on this subject submitted by the Chairman of the Chargola-Longai District Committee, who wishes it brought before the Meeting.

The Secretary then read the paper as follows:—

“As Chairman of the Chargola-Longai District Committee I have received numerous letters strongly protesting against the ever-increasing expenditure with regard to subscriptions for the Indian Tea Association. I am sure there is not a Planter in this room to-day who is not doing his level best as an individual to cut down expenditure under all heads. Yet we are to-day as a collective body, asked to sanction a hundred % increase, yes and even threatened with a possible higher increase. If this increase is eventually found absolutely necessary, then it is very essential that we get value for our money. Tea as an industry has done a tremendous lot for this country, opening up waste lands, etc., and employs upwards of a million labourers, yet with it all Government has not helped us very much, indeed we have been hampered on all sides with restrictions.

It is only recently that they are thinking of giving us a little more freedom with regard to recruiting.

The Industry cheerfully subscribe to Medical Research, Leprosy, Kala-Azar, Anti-Malarial schemes, etc., anything that is for the welfare of the people.

An effort might be made to induce the Government to increase the present Import Duty on Tea which is at present I believe only 15%.

The Indian Tariff Board has always shown its readiness to foster indigenous Industries, and we in Tea have every right to expect popular support.

The present time seems a suitable time to put our case before the Government to ask if not for help in return, at least for protection against outside competition. For example, through our Cess Committee we have taxed ourselves to encourage the consumption of Tea in India, beyond collecting this tax no Government has helped us in the work. At present the imports of foreign grown tea is over 9½ million lbs. and if this is allowed to go unchecked, these imported teas from foreign countries will adversely affect our markets, and so jeopardise the welfare of many of India's most contented workers.

The Indian Tariff Board has granted protection to Tin Plate works employing only a few hundred hands. It has granted protection and subsidies to 3 Ply Factories employing less than 1,000 hands. Paper Mills, etc., obtain protection on the grounds that a portion of their raw material is produced in this country. What about tea with its 100% produced in this country?

Could not our Representatives in Council put forward resolutions that the present ineffective import duty on foreign imported teas be raised to 33% and by stressing what we have done, and are still doing as citizens secure the support of Indian Members of these Councils. Our Representative at Delhi could put forward resolutions to the same effect and claim similar support from the Assembly.

Now should be a favourable time to ask for an increase in the Tea Import Duty, when the accounts of Provincial and Central Governments are likely to show heavy deficits. We could then embark on an intensified propaganda on the sale of 100% Indian Tea."

The proposal was then put before the Meeting and carried unanimously.

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Mr. E. S. Roffey, M.L.C., Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, commenced by referring to the financial position of the Province, the estimated drop in Revenue of about 20 lakhs and the consequent postponement of new schemes provided for in



the Budgets of 1929-30 and 1930-31, and stated that under these circumstances it would be useless for Members to ask their Council Representatives for further funds for Local Boards, or other new schemes. He then informed the Meeting of the passing of the Assam Land Revenue Re-Assessment Bill, 1930 during the last September Session, but stated it had yet received the assent of the Governor, owing to the reduction by the Council of the maximum rate of assessment from  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  to  $10\%$ . The Bill was being referred back to the Council next month and, if passed and assented to by the Governor, would affect the re-assessment of Cachar. The sale of Tea in India was then dealt with, and the present position explained, also the activities in the Assam Valley of Mr. Turnock, the Indian Tea Cess Representative, who, it was stated, was working under difficulties because he could not obtain supplies of tea for his distributors. Mr. Roffey stated Mr. Turnock was changing his Headquarters from Dibrugarh to Gauhati, and would pay up to -/8/- annas per lb. F. O. R. for B. P. S., and requested producers who were willing to give him supplies, to communicate with him direct. Mr. Roffey explained the position with regard to the suggestion to increase the import duty on Java Tea into India, which had recently been under the consideration of the Indian Tea Association London and Calcutta. He then referred to the questions of the withdrawal by the Central Province Government of Notifications under Section 3 of Act VI, the Labour Rules Agreement and Mr. Fox's appointment on the Legislative Assembly and read out a Resolution which was likely to be moved there during the present session, asking for the transfer of Cachar, Sylhet, Goalpara and certain Districts of other Provinces to Bengal, in opposition to which the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch had this morning passed a resolution. The Government of India Loan and the annual grant of 5 lakhs from the Local Government Revenues for the Road Board schemes were then dealt with, and also the proposed erection during next year of a Bridge over the Dehing River in the Assam Valley from the funds of the All India Road Board. Mr. Roffey informed the Meeting of this Resolution with regard to the installation of Wireless in Assam moved at the last September Session and of the Government reply, and that he hoped shortly to discuss the question of Radio in Assam with the Marconi Company. He concluded by discussing the findings of the Round Table Conference more especially as affecting Governors Provinces,

the enlargement of the Assam Legislative Council and the increase in the seats to be allotted to the Planting Constituencies, and finally in connection with this subject, referred to the difficulty in the annual amendment of the Planting Constituency, Roll, which he was taking up with the Local Authorities.

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Mr. S. N. Mackenzie, I.C.S., the Offg. Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, rising said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

After the "feast of reason and flow of soul" which we have just enjoyed I feel that the only way in which I can earn your gratitude is to be as brief as possible as I feel certain that a good many of you are just as hungry as I am myself. I regret the absence of the permanent Commissioner Mr. Hezlett, now breathing the rarified atmosphere of the Legislative Assembly, and of Mr. Gimson, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, now engaged on the Lakhimpur front. To this I shall refer again later. I feel quite certain that either of these would have been better capable of enacting the role which has been put upon me than I am myself. When I received the invitation to attend this meeting I felt sure that there was a catch, but it was not until your Secretary told me that I should have to make a speech that I realized how serious the catch was. I suggested that as he was a Secretary he might at least write a speech for me; but he replied almost quite coldly and altogether firmly that he had enough to do to put up materials for your Chairman's speech, and that all I had to do was to reply on behalf of Government to anything the Chairman had to say in which Government was concerned. This may sound easy, but believe me, it is not. Your Secretary was thinking in terms of twenty years ago when the Commissioner, a pucca Commissioner, not one of your officiating bodies, was still a power in the land. I am aware that I am on dangerous ground; at best now the Commissioner is an influence; it must be obvious that the counsels of many have taken the place of those of one or two. Your Chairman in his speech referred to the necessity for wireless stations in Assam and to a medical research scheme supplementary to the already existing scheme. How am I to reply? I would again remind my audience that officers in my service are to a great extent advisory. This is

an expression which appears frequently in print and it is stated that the functions of Indian Civilians will tend to become more and more advisory until they are resolved into crying in the wilderness. I am however spared the necessity for replying to the points raised by your Chairman by the fact that Mr. Roffey in his speech has already answered them far better than I can. The fact that he was in a position to do so proves my contention that the answer to all questions of policy is to be found in the Council where you, through your representatives, have far greater opportunities of expression than the ordinary official. Your Secretary further told me that Mr. Roffey, your political protector as he was styled by your Chairman, was to address the meeting on matters political. This found me on a good wicket, for under the Government Servant's Conduct Rules I am debarred from holding debate with him on such matters which is perhaps as well, as having heard him in debate I am sure I should be worsted. Much though I dislike throwing bouquets I congratulate you on your political protector, and I have reason to do so, from my own personal experience of Mr. Roffey. There was once a very junior Deputy Commissioner in charge of a district after three and a half year's service. To him enter Mr. Roffey as Solicitor acting on behalf of a client. Here it was Mr. Roffey who was on the good wicket but he made no attempt to take advantage of inexperience. This I have never been able to forget and feel sure that he will look after your interests as carefully as he protected a youthful Deputy Commissioner without the least detriment to the interests of his client.

I have referred to the absence of Mr. Gimson on the Lakhimpur front. I know there are wild rumours flying about and as rumour is a lying jade I feel it is only fair that I should tell you the facts as they were up to yesterday, and what exactly the civil authorities are doing. Early this month we heard that one Jadonang, a Kabui Naga, was stirring up trouble of some kind among the Kabui and Kacha Nagas. Our information was vague; according to some stories he was a God, according to others a Raja, according to yet others he was a doctor. But in whatever capacity he was acting he made quite sure of levying a fee of Rs. 30 from those who waited upon him. A few days after we heard that he had gone to the Bhuban Hills, and on the 19th, at the request of the Political Agent, Manipur, the Sub-Inspector of Police, Lakhimpur thana, arrested him. In consequence of a report received that possibly

Kabui Nagas might come down from Manipur and try to cause trouble, we sent a platoon of the Assam Rifles to Lakhipur on the 21st; on the 24th Capt Slowan, who was in charge of the platoon, sent a telegram to the effect that the Mauzadar of Jirighat had reported that numbers of Nagas were entering Jiribam. To be on the safe side Mr. Gimson himself left Silchar on that date with yet another platoon of Assam Rifles. It is more than likely that this movement of Nagas is due to the fact that a column is marching from Manipur down the Manipur-Cachar road, and that the Nagas are moving in flight and not with hostile intention. This is the situation as I understand it today, and I expect to get further information from Mr. Gimson either this evening or tomorrow.

What possibly should have come first I have left to the last as a child who puts aside the plums out of his pudding to swallow them in one large mouthful. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I thank you both for myself and the other guests who are with you but not of you for your invitation to this meeting. One personal note which I have not yet had an opportunity to strike before. I have just experienced a camp week in Silchar, my first, and have come through "all bloody but unbowed" by almost overwhelming hospitality. For my family I thank you. We were strangers and you took us in.

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Mr. R. L. Bliss, Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway, rising, referred to the pleasure it gave him and other Railway officials to attend this meeting, and the opportunity it gave for discussion on matters affecting the planting community. He took this opportunity of thanking the members of the Sarma Valley Light Horse for the very prompt assistance they rendered to the inhabitants of Chittagong at the time of the Armoury Raid, and congratulated their Colonel on the organisation that permitted such a quick despatch of men. He promised to go into the points raised by the Chairman, referred to the financial situation of Railway Companies, which he considered could only be remedied by inconveniencing some classes of passengers. In conclusion after hearing the Chairman's flattering reference to the services rendered by the Assam-Bengal Railway, he thought there was some hope of salvation

Mr. C. R. Harler, Chemist, Scientific Department, Tocklai Experimental Station, rising said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

On these occasions it has been customary to give a resume of our work and findings at Tocklai during the preceding year. During the past few years, however, our staff has so increased that any adequate account of our work is out of the question in the time at my disposal. You are accordingly referred to the Annual Report of the Calcutta Committee of the Indian Tea Association for details of last year's work.

At present I propose to deal with some of the outstanding points connected with manufacture which we have studied during 1930, and to discuss some aspects of artificial manuring.

1. *Withering and low temperatures.*—It is well known that in the manufacture of black tea, high temperatures are the enemy of quality.

If leaf is heated to 160°F., it is killed and will not ferment. Such leaf cannot be made into black tea. If leaf is heated to say 120°F., it begins to turn red in about an hour. This redness is due to the action of an enzyme within the leaf which, at high temperatures, converts the tannin into "tannin reds." These red substances are quite distinct from those formed by means of oxidation during fermentation.

The formation of "red leaf" in the leaf basket is a phenomenon well known to planters. Temperatures as high as 120°F., are common in tightly packed baskets and such are known to spoil the leaf. We consider that temperatures about 90°F., even are harmful to quality. At 90°F., leaf begins to redden in about 12 hours and, even if reddening is not apparent leaf submitted to such temperatures makes poor tea with "thin" liquors and dull colours.

In many factories leaf is withered in lofts in which temperature of 115°F., are often recorded. Such leaf is spoilt. Observations show that on the average day, loft temperatures rise well above 90°F., and quality is thereby lost. It will at once be argued that on many days the outside air rises above 90°F., and that even outside leaf houses will then produce poor tea. This is so, and at

present there is no practical method of obviating this fault. On most days, however, better tea will be made from leaf withered in outside houses than from that withered in the average loft.

2. *The physics of withering.*—The next point I wish to make is that connected with the physics of withering. When a shoot dries it does not lose water from all the component parts evenly. A normal shoot of two leaves and a bud, plucked in mid-season, withers mainly from the leaves and only indirectly from the bud and stalk. In a shoot of three leaves and bud, the third leaf, unless very soft, also loses water by way of the thin younger leaves.

When a shoot is dried rapidly, e.g., in 12 hours, the soft leaves over-dry and blacken before water has been translocated from other parts of the shoot. Only in slow withering can the shoot dry evenly. Furthermore the coarser the shoot the more slowly must the withering be carried out if all parts of the shoot are to be dried to the same extent.

Thus, to wither three leaves and a bud and to make the best of the leaf, the wither must be slower than with a finer shoot, and may need to extend over 24 or 30 hours. This requires more withering space than most Surma Valley gardens possess.

In order to wither slowly and evenly a chung or hessian rack is necessary. A wire rack spread with a single layer of shoots gives too rapid a wither, and unevenly dried shoot results. If the leaf is spread thickly, the bulk of the leaf dries unevenly. At present the chung house gives the best results because of the ease of spreading and evenness of the wither.

I think that the line along which we should work for the improvement of our factories in the Surma Valley should begin with the erection of sufficient good withering space.

3. *Controlled Withering.*—You will gather from my foregoing remarks that in order to make good tea the leaf must be withered slowly and evenly at temperatures below 90°F. This has a bearing on the question of controlled withering. Much has been heard on this subject in Assam during the last year or two, and several controlled houses of the Ceylon type have been erected in North East India. Success has been only partial, however, and the economic value of such lofts is still in doubt.

The reason why many Ceylon practices do not succeed in Assam is because our temperatures are higher than those in Ceylon. In Kandy the average temperature is 74°F. and in Newara Eliya 60°F. The average rains temperature in Assam is about 83°F. If damp air at 83°F. is heated for loft purposes, its temperature must be raised to about 90°F. in order to increase its drying capacity sufficiently for use in a loft 100 ft. long. In order to push air longitudinally through a loft its speed of movement must be not less than about 60 ft. per minute.

The result of such air speed and temperature is that the shoots dry rapidly and, in consequence, unevenly.

At Sathkyah, in the Dooars, a loft is under experiment in which the air rises by convection. In this manner the rapid movement necessary with fans is avoided and even drying of the shoot is obtained.

Other experiments are being made in which the air is dried and cooled before it is passed over the leaf. Although such a system may succeed it may not be economically sound.

We do not suggest that controlled lofts be erected in the Surma Valley. The whole subject is still under experiment. In this Valley we can improve quality to a much greater extent by finer plucking and by care in every process of manufacture, than by the use of controlled withering lofts.

4. *Fermenting Room Floors.*—Leaving now the question of withering I wish to speak about fermenting room floors and, as a preface to my remarks, to say something about the micro-organisms on the tea leaf.

Every plant carries swarms of microbes. Each tea shoot may carry about 10 million micro-organisms consisting of bacteria, yeasts and moulds. These have various functions, some good, some bad, so far as tea is concerned. Whether micro-organisms take an essential part in tea "fermentation" we do not know yet, but we do believe that everything required for fermentation is on or within the shoot as it is plucked, and that foreign micro-organisms may produce "taints" in teas.

The deduction to be drawn from these facts is that tea rollers and fermenting floors should be kept clean and sterile.

A fermenting floor which is dirty, *i.e.*, carries stale tea juice, may still give good teas. The organic matter present on the floor is capable of providing food for bacteria but does no harm so long as harmful organisms are absent. If a harmful strain of bacteria is inadvertently introduced, it may breed with great rapidity, provided food for it is present. The result may be that tea gets a "taint", and the good name of a garden mark may, in consequence, be lost in a few months.

The best sterilising agent we can recommend at present is acid E. C. which dissolves the organic matter on the floor and also acts as a sterilising agent. The use of E. C. must be regarded as a cure in some and an insurance in all cases against "taints."

The easier floor to keep clean is a glass or glazed-tile floor. Stainless steel is under experiment. A good cement floor answers well for a few years, after which time the acid tea juice renders it porous. A porous floor can only be kept clean by washing at very short intervals, and such should be uprooted and relaid.

5. *Manuring and Quality*.—I wish to mention the vexed question of the effect of manuring on quality. Now that the market is down, attention turns to quality and, as in previous slumps, it is said that teas are not what they used to be. True, plucking is probably not so fine as it was 25 years ago. This point is often forgotten, and the loss of quality is credited to artificial manuring.

Many planters have an inherent mistrust in artificials and, even when convinced of the extra crop accruing from their use, some believe that an advantage in one direction must be accompanied by a disadvantage in another, this being loss of quality.

In order to settle the question we manufactured leaf from unmanured and highly manured areas. These were tasted in Calcutta and, on the average, the manured teas were slightly preferable on account of the "tip". The manured areas received a mixture of giving 90 lbs. nitrogen, 90 lbs. phosphoric acid and 90 lbs. potash, and yielded 18 maunds per acre, against 9 maunds on the unmanured area.

The plucking on each area was at 7 days, so that the leaf from the manured bushes was at times over-ready. To have made the experiment more fairly comparable the manured area should have been plucked at 6 and sometimes five days. In this case the



preference for the manured tea would probably have been very distinct.

I think we can safely lay the ghost of the injurious effect of artificial manures on the quality of tea.

6. *The Use of Artificial Manures*.—Leaving now the question of manufacture and quality I propose to pass a few very general remarks on manuring and field work, for it is in these practices that we, as theorists, are most often in argument with the practical planter.

Speaking of agriculture in general, it is often said that scientists have been of little practical help to the farmer. If this were true it would not be surprising since agriculture had a 5000-year start of the scientist. Yet, even against this handicap, science has been able to point the way to the agriculturists on many problems.

The broad changes in agricultural practice cannot be followed in a crop like tea which in India has figuratively speaking, barely come of age. Instead we must consider a crop like wheat, the culture and yield of which is on record over the past 2,000 years or so. Reference to the classics shows that the methods used in ancient Roman times were practically identical with those employed by the Italian peasant in the nineteenth century, and the crop in both cases was the same, about 20 bushels of wheat an acre.

Under mediaeval systems of agriculture in England the wheat crop fell to 6 or 8 bushels per acre. The enclosure of common lands, the introduction of a recuperative clover crop into the rotation, and the making of cattle manure—the return to Roman methods in fact pushed the crop up to 20 bushels an acre, at which figure it remained till about a century ago.

About 1840 saw the dawn of agricultural science, when Liebig propounded his theories of plant nutrition and Lawes began experimenting at Rothamstead. As a result of the new knowledge gained and by the use of artificial fertilisers, the wheat crop was pushed from 20 to 30 bushels an acre. It remains at this figure to-day in England because the importation of cheap wheat from Canada and Australia and the rising cost of labour tend to militate against high farming.

Much can the tea industry learn from the story of the changing methods in wheat culture. We know that tea, if grown for some years with little attention, no manuring and often grazed by cattle, will settle down to give about 3 maunds an acre. There is much tea in this condition in Assam to-day and I regard it as "mediaeval" tea.

The first thing a planter must do is to fence his tea, shade it, green crop it, cattle manure it in other words adopt methods known to ancient Rome and a steady crop of 8 to 10 maunds an acre is possible. When virgin land is planted, much greater crops are obtained, but after 20 or 30 years, the soil loses its original vigour under cropping and leaching, and the outturn tails off to the figure named. Such tea is good tea, but may be regarded as "early Victorian" tea.

The amount of cattle manure available is limited as is also the acreage which can be green cropped, so that it is difficult to maintain the crop at 10 maunds. Accordingly we ask you to make use of the information gained at Rothamstead 90 years ago and confirmed and amplified all over the world, and at your Experimental Station at Tocklai and Borbhetta.

By adding a mixture giving 40 lbs. nitrogen, 20 lbs. phosphoric acid and 20 lbs. potash per acre an extra 2 maunds an acre can be put on the crop obtained in practice by normal green cropping and cattle manuring. More liberal doses of artificials will give bigger increases and the crop limit is not yet known. By means of artificials we have obtained 20 maunds an acre at Borbhetta and on certain areas in this Valley, where nitrogen is naturally present in large quantities, crops of 30 maunds per acre have been obtained.

Given reasonably good tea the crop obtainable is largely governed by economic conditions. Assume that it costs about 8 annas a pound to put Surma Valley tea on the Calcutta market. It costs about 5 annas a pound to put on the market the extra 2 maunds of tea obtained by artificials. This estimate of cost assumes that the first 8 maunds per acre have already been produced at a cost of 8 annas per pound and does not take into account a share in the overhead expenditure of the estate.

In future, finer and finer teas will be demanded and it may soon be impossible to sell coarse tea at an economic price. The cost of production varies as the quality of the tea. This is axiomatic and hence it is practically certain that the cost of production in the Surma Valley must rise, if we are to continue to produce tea at a profit. With rising cost of production the profit from manuring increases. An old garden, and by this I mean a garden in which the soil is no longer virgin, cannot be expected to produce 10 maunds of fine tea per acre without the use of artificials.

With one eye on quality we should say, manure up to your labour force and do not manure unless you can pluck the leaf. With a shortage of labour manuring will tend to give a flush which gets away. As a result coarse leaf will be brought in and quality suffer.

In very extreme cases where the garden can only be plucked in 12 days or so, it is possible that artificial manuring may produce such growth that the crop garnered will be less than with no manure—unless, of course, 4 or 5 leaves and a bud be taken. The only way to make money out of manuring is to pluck all the leaf when it is small. If labour becomes short in mid-season then weak areas must be thrown out of the plucking round and the pluckers must concentrate on the strong tea.

The economic factors in artificial manuring will vary from time to time, but one thing is certain, and that is that except on virgin soil, tea will soon cease to be profitable unless artificially manured.

The Chairman then rising, said:—

GENTLEMEN,

I now beg to propose that the Proceedings of the General Committee during the past year be confirmed, the Report adopted and the accounts be passed as correct.

This being seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. M. James, was unanimously passed.

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and wished him a pleasant leave in England—after which the Meeting was closed.

W. E. D. COOPER,

*Secretary.*

A. F. STUART,

*Chairman.*

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*List of members of the General Committee elected  
for the year 1930-31.*

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MEMBERS.

MR. A. F. STUART, ( <i>Chairman.</i> )		
MR. H. M. JAMES, ( <i>Vice-</i>	}	<i>Mid-Sylhet.</i>
<i>Chairman</i> ) ...		
" F. J. HEATHCOTE ...	}	<i>Chargola-Longai.</i>
" C. A. WILLIAMS ...		
" P. S. DOUBELL ...	}	<i>Baliscra.</i>
" T. E. HOLBROOK ...		
" A. G. MORRIS ...	}	<i>Luskimpore.</i>
" R. G. MATHEWSON ...		
" C. N. W. GRIMSHAW ...	}	<i>Hailakandi.</i>
" D. PATERSON ...		
" T. A. EVERARD ...	}	<i>Chatla Bheel.</i>
" A. BROWN ...		
" H. EMBLEN ...	}	<i>North Cachir.</i>
" F. M. ANDERSON ...		
" A. B. BEDDOW ...	}	<i>Happy Valley.</i>
" S. A. PEARSON ...		
" H. G. WEBB ...	}	<i>Lakhimpur.</i>
MR. W. E. D. COOPER, M.L.C., ( <i>Secretary.</i> )		

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar, on  
Wednesday, the 6th August 1930.*

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**Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 7th May 1930, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation. The Secretary was directed to send a reminder to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, re: his letter on the subject of the Rangpur Bridge, to which no reply had been received.

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**Accounts of the Branch.**

A statement of accounts of the Branch for the half year ending 30th June 1930, having been previously circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table, and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. J. Heathcote, these were unanimously ordered to be passed.

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**Representation of the Branch on the Assam Road Board  
and Tea Rates Road Fund Board.**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C., was nominated to represent the Branch on the above Boards in place of Mr. G. E. Rayner.

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**Labour Rules.**

Letters from Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Company, asking for an expression of opinion on the subject of claims under the Labour Rules, for coolies belonging to a garden they had closed down, having been previously circulated, led to a lengthy discussion.

The Secretary was directed to reply, that this Committee considered :—

- a) The question as to whether coolies could be claimed by a garden who could give them no work, even if they were offered by another garden in the same agency, is a very debatable point, for which the Labour Rules were not framed.

- (b) That though there could be no question of another garden refusing them work and turning them out, the Company employing them should certainly pay the transfer fee demanded, and so establish a claim to the labour.
- (c) That in the event of this transfer fee not being paid, the Company employing such labour could establish no claim to it under the Labour Rules, till the coolies had been in their employment for two years.

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**Employment of Sylhetis in the Assam Valley Gardens.**

The following letter No. 387, dated the 11th July 1930, from the Secretary, Assam Branch Indian Tea Association, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table:—

A member of this Association has requested my opinion on the legality of his employing Sylhetis brought by contractors to this Valley for the purpose of tea concerns.

I have advised him that such employment is not illegal but may be objected to by your Association.

Will you kindly forward me your Association's views on the subject?

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Sylhet members agreed that the employment of Sylhetis in Assam was unlikely to affect them in any way, and appreciated the courtesy of the Assam Branch in bringing the matter to their notice. The Secretary was directed to obtain, if possible, from the Assam Branch, the usual rates paid for hoeing and building work.

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**Sale of Cigarettes.**

Correspondence on the subject of the stoppage of supplies of cigarettes to tea garden shopkeepers, having been previously circulated, the Secretary was directed to send copies of the Imperial Tobacco Company Limited's letter to all Managers; it being held this was a matter to be dealt with by individual concerns rather than by the Branch Association.

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**Proposed Joint Conference of the Assam and Surma Valley Branches to consider the Simon Report.**

The Chairman, having explained at length what took place at the Conferences attended by himself and the Secretary in Calcutta on the 25th and 26th July—it was agreed that no useful purpose would be served by holding a conference of representatives of the two Branches at an early date, more especially as few if any members had so far been able to obtain a copy of the Report. If further action was considered necessary, this could best be taken during the next session of the Legislative Council in Shillong in September.

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**Proposed Amendment of the Income-Tax Act and the Draft Rules for the Control of Income-Tax Agents.**

*Correspondence on the subject having been previously circulated, the Secretary was directed to reply that this Committee agreed with the principle of accredited Agents, but considered the application fee unnecessary. Further that it is high time some steps were taken to facilitate the recovery of the tax taken in excess by Government from the general public.*

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**Constitution of the proposed Indian Accountancy Board.**

Correspondence on the subject suggesting this Branch might like to nominate a representative on the above Board, was laid on the table, and the Secretary's letter dated 21st June confirmed. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce having made two nominations, action by this Branch was considered unnecessary.

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**Telephone Service in Silchar.**

Enquiries from Managers of gardens within the radius of the proposed Exchanges having elicited the information that practically no support was forthcoming the Secretary was directed to reply to the Divisional Engineer, Telegraph, Shillong Division, to that effect; pointing out that business dealings between gardens under different management were practically nil, and that a telephone

connection could therefore only be considered a luxury, which concerns were unwilling to pay for in the present hard times.

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**Allotment of the Money raised for the Tea Rates Road Fund in the Surma Valley.**

Mr. Grimshaw brought up the following note from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Luskpore District Committee held on 3rd April:—

“A discussion took place regarding the allotment of the money raised from the Tea Rates Road Fund in the Surma Valley, and it was proposed by Mr. Baxter and seconded by Mr. Bates, that the Board be requested to consider individual district improvements to roads before any further money was allotted, after the allotment due to Cachar had been made.”

It was agreed after general discussion that this Committee see no reason to depart from their original recommendations, or that any good purpose would be served by allotting this money to small schemes in individual districts. The matter to be taken up again as soon as the work now in hand was completed.

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**Despatch of Money-Orders by more than one person as remitters.**

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with enclosures, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table:—

Letter No. 1020-0, dated Calcutta, 3rd July 1930.

From --The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta,

To--The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you the accompanying copies of a letter dated 26th June and of its enclosures received from the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, with reference to the proposed introduction of a rule prohibiting the acceptance by the Postal Authorities of any money order sent by more than one person as



remitters, except in the case of firms and corporations. It occurs to the Committee that the proposal may affect remittances by tea garden labourers and I am accordingly to invite an expression of your opinion on this point.

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*Copy of a letter dated Calcutta, 26th June 1930, from the Postmaster-General Bengal and Assam Circle, to the Secretary Indian Tea Association.*

I have the honour to refer you to clause 264 of the Post and Telegraph Guide a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference, from which it will be seen that a money-order cannot be made payable to more than one person, except in the case of firms, association, etc. There is, however, no rule against two or more persons jointly remitting a money order, as this practice when resorted to by the public, leads to difficulty and inconvenience on the part of the post office in disposition of acknowledgements of money-orders as well as in repaying the amount to the remitters in case of non-payment. It is therefore proposed to introduce a rule prohibiting the acceptance of any money-order sent by more than one person as remitters, except in the case of firms and corporations. I shall be thankful, therefore, if you will kindly let me know the views of your Association on the proposal.

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*Extract made from Post and Telegraph Guide.*

CLAUSE 264. *Payee's name and address.*—The name and address of the payee must be entered with such completeness as shall secure identification and prevent risk of wrong payment. In the case of money orders payable in Presidency and other large towns, the name of the street and the number of the house in which the payee resides should be invariably given. The occupation, rank, trade, or profession of the payee, and any other particulars calculated to help in identifying him, should be added. The name of only one person may be entered as payee, except in the case of firms or corporations, whose usual designation must be given. A money order payable to a Government official, bank Manager, or an editor

of a newspaper, etc., in his public capacity, should contain the designation not the name of the person for whom the order is intended.

No objection was raised to the above proposal, neither was it considered it would affect remittances by Tea Garden Labourers to any extent.

### **Labour Rules Arbitration Case.**

MAZDEHEE TEA COMPANY Vs. RASIDPUR TEA ESTATE.

Rasidpur Agents having signified their willingness to meet the Arbitration Award—correspondence was ordered to be recorded,

### **Tea Planters Benevolent Institution.**

The following statement showing that a sum of Rs. 2,240/8/- had been collected by the Chairman of the following District Committees, as a donation towards the above Institution, was laid on the table. The Secretary was directed to forward the amount to the Sub-Committee in Calcutta who deal with this fund, and to record the thanks of the Chairman of the Branch and the members for the trouble District Committees had taken in raising a sum in excess of that collected last year, which was considered very satisfactory considering the state of the Industry in the Surma Valley :—

				Rs. As.
Lakhipur	...	..	...	220 0
Happy Valley	...	...	...	200 0
North Cachar	...	...	...	130 0
Hailakandi	...	...	...	73 0
Chutla Bheel	...	...	...	155 0
Chargola-Longai	...	...	...	325 0
Mid-Sylhet	...	...	...	663 8
Balisera	...	...	...	130 0
Luskerpore	...	...	...	344 0
Total Rs.				2,240 8

### **Fuel Oil.**

A letter regarding shortage of weight in fuel oil supplied by the Burmah Shell Company to the Urrunabund Tea Company, asking if other members of the Committee had remarked a similar shortage, was read to the meeting. No other members of the Committee (most of whom use B.O.C. oil) having any complaints on the subject, it was suggested the weight of the consignments might be checked in Calcutta by the Agency House concerned.

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### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Hailakandy District Committee held on 19th July 1930.**

Mr. Paterson brought to the notice of the Meeting the question of local recruiting on a large scale by the Manager of the Mohammedpore Tea Estate in Sylhet from gardens in Hailakandi. As Proprietors of this garden are neither members of this Association nor signatories to the Labour Rules, no action could be taken by the Branch and retaliation seemed to be the only remedy.

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 14th January 1931.*

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### **Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 6th August 1930, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

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### **Round Table Conference.**

Letters addressed to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, signed by Mr. T. A. Chalmers, C.S.I., and Members of the Planting Group on the Assam Legislative Council, pressing for the representation of the interests of mofussil Europeans at the Round Table Conference, having been read to the Meeting, it was agreed to record a vote of thanks to Mr. Chalmers and Members of the Assam Council for the action they had taken, and further to record a note of dissatisfaction at the non-representation of the

large number of Europeans living outside the big cities of India by one of their own community at the Round Table Conference.

### Accounts of the Branch.

On the proposition of Mr. Rayner, seconded by Mr. Heathcote, the accounts as published for 1930, were unanimously passed. The Secretary was directed to write strongly to the Proprietors of the Bundookmara Tea Estate as to payment of their subscription more regularly.

The Chairman then explained at some length the further expenditure to which the Branch is committed by payment of its share of a representative on the Legislative Assembly for the European Constituency of Assam, and for its share of a grant of Rs. 15,000/- towards a Medical Research Society in Assam.

The Secretary, having laid the following estimate on the table, it was agreed that this expenditure could only be met by increasing the annual subscription per acre by 100%, and it was decided to bring this up to -5/- annas per acre subject to approval by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and confirmation at the General Meeting of the Branch.

The Chairman pointed out that, in any new constitution framed, more representatives on the Assam Council of the Tea Industry would undoubtedly be required, entailing further expenditure, and that under these circumstances it was doubtful if -5/- annas per acre would be sufficient to cover the expenditure.

### ESTIMATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1931.

#### *Estimated Income.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
To Estimated subscription on 131,000 acres			
@ -5/- annas per acre	...	41,875	0 0
„ Office allowance from Indian Tea Association, Calcutta @ Rs. 100/- per month	...	1,200	0 0
Total Estimated Income Rs.	...	43,075	0 0

*Estimated Expenditure.*

	Rs.	A. P.
By Postage Stamps & Telegrams ... ..	350	0 0
„ Secretary's Pay ... ..	6,000	0 0
„ „ Office Expenditure ... ..	1,850	6 5
„ Share of Mr. Roffey's Salary & Out-of-pocket Expenses ... ..	4,300	0 0
„ Share of Mr. Fox's Salary, Passages & Out-of-pocket Expenses ... ..	14,750	0 0
„ Share of Subscription to the Assam Medical Research Society ... ..	5,000	0 0
„ House Allowance to I. T. A. Head Clerk ... ..	60	0 0
„ Subscription to Chittagong Chamber of Commerce ... ..	50	0 0
„ Printing Charges ... ..	900	0 0
„ Stationery ... ..	600	0 0
„ Travelling Allowance to Members of General Committee ... ..	3,000	0 0
„ Travelling Allowance to Council Members ... ..	3,000	0 0
„ Miscellaneous ... ..	200	0 0
Total Expenditure ... ..	40,060	0 0

**Representation of the Assam European Constituency  
on the Legislative Assembly.**

*Appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E.*

General discussion on this subject led to agreement that the enhanced subscription should only be recovered from Companies under European Control, and that the previous rate of subscription should hold good as far as Indian-owned gardens were concerned - it being out of the question to ask them to subscribe to what is purely European representation. There being no information as to what steps had been taken to secure part of the payment of expenses in connection with Mr. Fox's appointment by Oil, Coal, Railways and other European interests, the Secretary was directed to obtain such information as he could from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and the European Association as to what support could be expected from those unconnected with the Tea Industry.

**Publications of a Vernacular Weekly paper in Assam :  
The "Batori."**

The following correspondence on the above subject having been previously circulated, this Committee while entirely sympathising with the objects of this paper—felt that as it was published in Assamese, little support could be expected in the Surma Valley, where the language was neither read nor understood :—

Letter No. 1197-O., dated Calcutta, 7th August 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter dated 25th July which the General Committee have received from Rai Bahadur S. P. Barooah on the subject of the publication of a weekly vernacular newspaper entitled "Batori". The proposal, you will recall, was briefly referred to at the informal meeting held in Calcutta on 25th July last, when it was generally agreed that the project should, as far as possible, receive the support of the tea industry in Assam.

2. The General Committee have further discussed the proposal and they have decided when the publication is started, to refer to it in their fortnightly proceedings with a view to enlisting the support of Calcutta Agency Houses in the matter of tea garden advertisements. Meanwhile they will be glad if you will in due course kindly bring the project to the notice of members of the Branch Association with the object of securing for the newspaper as many subscribers as possible throughout the Assam Valley. The suggestion has also been made—having regard to the professed purpose of the newspaper, namely, the counter-action of influences which are antagonistic to the peace of the province and to the interests of the tea industry—that the Government of Assam might be approached for a small subsidy. The General Committee are not aware whether or not the Local Government would be likely to regard favourably a representation of this nature, but they will be glad if you will kindly consider the matter.

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**Formation of an Assam Medical Research Society.**

Proprietary interests having apparently agreed to subscribe to this scheme, Rs. 5,000/- had been included in the estimate of future expenditure as the possible amount this Branch might be asked to contribute. Opinions were expressed that it was doubtful as to the benefits the tea industry would receive from this Society, and that the conditions, on which this support should be continued were, that the Society worked in collaboration with the existing operations of the Ross Institute, and that the support should be given on the definite understanding that it commits the Industry only to a proportionate share of the maximum annual contribution expected from industrial interests, namely Rs. 15,000, -

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**Question of Payment of Police Charges for Lorry Hire, etc., in connection with disturbances on Tea Gardens.**

A particular case brought up by the Chutla Bheel District Committee, having been brought to the notice of this Committee, the Manager of the garden concerned was invited to state his case; he explained that at the present moment he was in correspondence with the Superintendent of Police on the subject. It was agreed that in this particular case the charges seemed exorbitant, and failing a satisfactory compromise the Secretary was directed to address the Commissioner on the general principle that payment of rates and taxes by Tea Companies entitles them to police protection in the event of riots as is given to other rate payers free of charge. The Manager concerned was advised to suspend payment and inform the Secretary before the next Meeting if a compromise with the Police Authorities had been arrived at.

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With reference to a Bill from Rai Sahib Hem Chandra Dutt, B.L., Advocate, Silchar, for Rs. 25/- a/c legal advice in connection with the above case, the Secretary was directed to arrange that a retaining fee of Rs. 10/- per month should be paid to this gentleman from 1st January 1931.

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### **Tea Rates Road Fund.**

A note on the present position of this fund and the action taken by the Branch's representative, who asked for further instructions as to future programme, was considered.

It was agreed by a majority that on completion of the works now in hand, the Tea Rates Road Fund Board be asked to devote the money collected in both the districts of Cachar and Sylhet, to a road to connect the Cachar and Sylhet Road Systems from Monacherra to the Chargola Valley. The question of tolls on bridges built from this fund next came up for discussion, and though members generally held that the principle by which a bridge built from this fund should be a toll bridge was a bad one—it was recognised that as in the case of the Monoo Bridge, no local authority would undertake the up-keep of these bridges unless entitled to charge a toll for this purpose. The member promised to get this toll limited to cover the actual cost of the annual up-keep, if possible:—it being felt that this would not fall heavily on neighbouring gardens who were getting a bridge in place of a toll ferry.

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### **Assam, Dooars and Terai: Proposed Inter-District Labour Agreement.**

Letter No. 1632-O., dated Calcutta, 5th November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you the accompanying copy of a letter dated 20th/24th October received by the General Committee from the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association. You will note from the letter that the suggestion has been made that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one district proceeding to gardens in another district, the gardens losing the services of the labourers should have a claim to re-imbursement of its recruiting expenses; and that an agreement to this effect should be come to between the various interests concerned. The General Committee will be glad if you will kindly favour them with your Association's views on the proposal at your convenience.

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*Extract from a letter dated 20th/24th October 1930, from the Tea Districts Labour Association.*

"The Chairman explained that as there is no labour Agreement between the Assam and Dooars districts it appeared to be advisable to settle the question of a garden's claims in the event of labour from that garden proceeding to an estate in the other district. The opinion of the Meeting was that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one area going to gardens in the other area, the original garden should have a claim to reimbursement of its expenses on importing the labour in question, provided that such labour had not been defaulting more than a year."

This correspondence, after previous circulation, was next considered. This Committee were entirely in agreement with the proposals, but suggested that to make them effective, a time limit of two years instead of one would be preferable,

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**The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.**

Copies of the Revised Draft Agreement were laid on the table after previous circulation. As the time at the disposal of the Committee did not admit of their being gone through in detail—a Sub-Committee of the following gentlemen, was requested to go into them, and submit a report before the General Meeting. The Secretary was directed to call a Meeting of this Sub-Committee for Monday, February 9th:—

The Chairman,	Mr. F. J. Heathcote,
Col. A. B. Beddow,	Mr. S. C. McBey.
Mr. A. McCreath.	The Secretary.

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**Labour Recruitment for Assam: Detention of Criminals  
and Verification of Antecedents.**

In replying to the Special Superintendent of Police, Assam, on the above subject, the Secretary was directed to protest strongly against the proposal, and to state the views of this Committee were

entirely in agreement with those of the Tea Districts Labour Association, as expressed in the following note:—

"The Tea Districts Labour Association had protested strongly to the local police authorities against the introduction of this rule, and they had asked for their objections to the proposed new rule to be placed before the Inspector-General with a view to the adoption in its stead of the simple method, suggested to the Madras Government in 1925, namely, the reporting to the police authorities in Assam, by the police in the recruiting district, of the departure to a destination, in Assam of any individual already under police surveillance. The Chairman of the Assam Labour Board had already informed the local police authorities that the general opinion of members of his Board was strongly against the proposal, he had also suggested the alternative put forward by the Tea Districts Labour Association."

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**Formation of the Board of Referees under  
the Income-Tax Act.**

The Local Government having asked for a nominee of this Branch of the Association to sit on the above Board— Mr. G. E. Rayner consented to undertake the work.

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**Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association: Training of  
Coolie Dhais in Tea Gardens.**

The following letter dated 28th October 1930, from the Organising Secretary of the above Association for the Surma Valley, having been previously circulated was placed before the Meeting for consideration:—

As the Organising Secretary for the Surma Valley on behalf of the above Association for women's welfare work, I venture to approach you with the following suggestions and trust the same will receive your kind and sympathetic consideration.

It is an undisputed fact that child mortality in India could be considerably reduced if the women of India, in their confinement, had the benefit of trained maternity aid (in the service of duly qualified dhais, *i.e.*, midwives) and every effort is being made on behalf of the above Association to achieve that end. As one, whose husband is connected with the Tea Industry by occupation and also as an honorary worker on behalf of the above Association, I feel that it would be one of the noblest achievements of my life, if my humble services could be of any use in the matter of providing for trained maternity aid in tea gardens. Provisions of trained maternity aid will mean automatic decrease in child mortality which again in its turn would mean better attendance at work and that is a thing worth striving for in the interest of the Tea Industry itself. I would therefore expect that my suggestions would receive your sympathetic consideration.

I herewith enclose a dhai training scheme which is being worked by the St. Luke's Hospital, Chabua, for the purpose of training of Tea Garden Coolie Dhais in Assam and this scheme appears to me to be an easily workable one, and I venture to make the following suggestions:—

1. That the Lady Superintendent of the Mission Hospital, Habiganj, Sylhet) be approached on behalf of your Association to undertake training of coolie dhais on the lines detailed in the scheme herewith enclosed.
2. Should they be agreeable to undertake the work, they be requested to frame an estimate of initial expenses that would be required in constructing buildings, acquiring land if any is necessary, etc.
3. Regarding meeting initial expenses, I am reliably informed St. Luke's Hospital received a grant of Rs. 2,000/- from the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund for the purpose, and I enclose herewith a letter from the Secretary of the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund which would go to show that they are quite prepared to sympathetically consider any dhai training scheme that might be placed before them. Should you succeed in persuading the Lady Superintendent of the Habiganj Mission Hospital to

undertake the work, I will be very pleased to place the scheme before Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund and move them for a grant similar to the one made to the St. Luke's Hospital and should there be any shortages, they might be made good by contributions from the various Companies that might wish to participate in the scheme.

I should be glad to hear your views in the matter at an early date. Kindly return the scheme as well as the letter from Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund after making out copies for your record. Thanking you.

The Secretary was directed to express the Committee's sympathy with the proposed training centre, and ask for further particulars as to the financial support the scheme is likely to receive from other interests outside tea. Also to record that from statistics taken from various tea gardens, the question as to whether infant mortality is high compared to other countries, is seriously disputed.

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#### **Abolition of Unified Stamps and Proposal for Separate Stamps for Postal and Revenue Purposes.**

The suggestions made by the Government were laid on the table after previous circulation. It was agreed to reply that this Committee were in favour of the abolition of unified stamps on the grounds that the revenue of the Local Government would benefit thereby.

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#### **Mr. E. S. Roffey's Leave.**

The following letter from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, having been previously circulated was laid on the table :—

I enclose copy of my Circular of 107, dated 13th August 1930, with copy enclosure thereto and copy extract from the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the General Committee of this Association held on the 23rd August last granting Mr. Roffey six month's leave in April 1931.

Mr. Roffey proposes to attend the Session of the Assam Legislative Council in March next, and to sail from Bombay by S. S. "Ranchi" on the 4th April next. He will therefore only be absent from the Assam Legislative Council during the weekly Autumn Session, which is generally held in September and under these circumstances it is considered he should retain his seat on Council during his absence.

Mr. Buckingham Jones will act for Mr. Roffey as Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association while he is on leave and will advise your Association at any time you may desire.

I am directed to ask your Association to be good enough to join in sanctioning Mr. Roffey's leave as above-mentioned.

The delay in informing you of the above arrangements has been due to the fact that the date of the next Spring Session was unknown. I understand it has now been provisionally fixed for the 9th to the 28th March 1931.

Agreement was expressed to the sanction of six month's leave in 1931, on the grounds given in the Circular, *viz.*, that changes in the Constitution are likely to take place in 1932.

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#### **Binnakandi Telegraph Office.**

This office being guaranteed against losses by the Managers of two neighbouring gardens to the extent of Rs. 500/- per annum, it was agreed that as the Office is of primary importance to the Branch, to bear one-third of the losses as long as the Indian Tea Association office is situated at Binnakandi, if the Postal Authorities refused to continue it on any other conditions. The attitude of the Postal Authorities to several guaranteed offices in Cachar being the cause of much dissatisfaction--especially as regards their inability to produce accounts showing how the losses are made, and the arbitrary manner of their demands, the Secretary will be glad to hear from other members using guaranteed offices, with a view to bringing this to the notice of their representative on the Legislative Assembly--Telegraphs being the Central subject.

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**District Committees.**

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees were read and ordered to be recorded :—

Balisera	District Committee Meeting held on	19-11-30.
Mid-Sylhet	„ „ „ „ „	27-11-30.
Luskerpore	„ „ „ „ „	1-12-30.

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Mr. D. Paterson, who represents the Tea Industry on the Assam-Bengal Railway--Local Advisory Committee, promised to look into the timings on the Habiganj Bazar and Balla Branch Railways, brought up by the Luskerpore District Committee.

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**Annual General Meeting of the Branch in Silchar.**

The date of this was fixed for Wednesday, the 25th February 1931.

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 25th February 1931.*

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**Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 14th January 1931, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

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**Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.**

It was unanimously agreed to confirm the findings of the Sub-Committee appointed to go into the various drafts of revised rules

as representing the views of the members of this Branch of the Association, these are as follows:—

Minutes of a Meeting of a Sub-Committee held in Silchar on Monday, February 9th to examine the various proposals made with reference to Revision of the Labour Rules.

PRESENT :

Mr. A. F. Stuart (*Chairman*).  
Lt.-Col. A. B. Beddow.  
Mr. F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.  
„ S. G. McBey.  
„ W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.

Papers considered:—

- (1) Letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.
- (2) Circular from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, dated the 11th August 1930, headed "The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement: Proposed Revision."
- (3) Minutes of a Meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to revise the Labour Rules Agreement held in Silchar on Wednesday, 28th August, 1929.
- (4) Revised Draft Agreement suggested by the following Sub-Committee:—

Mr. T. C. Crawford,  
„ A. S. Macalister,  
„ K. B. Miller,

- (5) Committee paper dated 11th August 1930, with columnar statement.

The above Committee having considered these papers more especially the Draft Rules No. 4 prepared by the Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, record that they infinitely prefer the rules drafted by a Committee of this Branch of the Association (No. 3) as being far simpler and more suitable for practical purposes under conditions in the Surma Valley. They recom-

mend that in this Draft, Rule 2 should be amended so as to read "within the preceding three years" instead of "within the preceding twelve months." They would also add to this draft the following Clause taken from the Calcutta draft No. 3,—

"The provisions of this clause shall not apply in cases of marriages between labourers from different gardens, it being expressly agreed that no restriction shall be imposed in such cases and no penalties enacted under this agreement, but the new employer shall refund *bona fide* advances of the labour transferred."

They suggest to the General Committee that they see no good reasons the rules as recommended by their previous Sub-Committee No. 3) should not be introduced in the Surma Valley, leaving the Brahmaputra Valley where conditions differ to some extent to frame their own rules.

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Mr. E. S. Roffey informed the Meeting that the Assam Branch were considering the draft rules on the 7th March, and made several observations on points in the draft rules No. 4, prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which he personally thought would have to be modified to meet existing conditions.

The Secretary was directed to reply to letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that this Branch considered the rules drafted by their Sub-Committee in August 1929, with additions made above, as more suitable in principle and in practice for the Surma Valley than others suggested.

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Letter dated Calcutta, the 5th February 1931.

From—MESSRS. JAMES FINLAY & CO., LTD.,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement:  
Proposed Revision.*

In continuation with the above question which was raised at the meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on December



the 2nd, we quote hereunder extracts of advices from the Secretaries of the Baraooora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited.

"We notice from pages 2 and 3 of the abstract of proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on December 2nd that discussion took place on the proposed revision of the Brahmaputra and Sarma Valley Labour Rules Agreement. We have also read the two new drafts for proposed rules, the one being Mr. T. A. Chalmers' draft and the other that drawn up by the Shillong Conference in September 1929. The Chairman is of the opinion that when coolies have been given leave by a local magistrate to leave the garden which recruited them, the garden in this event should have no further claim on them. You will doubtless remember that this company has had a case involving such an occurrence as mentioned, and as the Chairman's views coincide with those of our senior manager, we think such views might be brought to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations.

We shall be obliged if you will bring the above to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations.

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This letter having been read to the Meeting, it was unanimously agreed that this Committee strongly object to any suggestion to insert a clause of this sort in the Labour Rules, which they look on as a private agreement between employers of labour. They consider the principle is bad, that it would encourage coolies wishing to change their employer to go into the Court, and that the fact that they have done so, should not absolve any Manager subsequently employing them from payment of a transfer fee.

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#### **Surma Valley Branch—Membership Subscription.**

The following letter having been received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, was ordered to be recorded, and the Secretary

was directed to collect subscriptions for the present year at the rate of 5 - annas per acre:—

Letter No. 240-O., dated Calcutta, 17th February 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Representation of the Tea Industry in the Legislative Assembly  
Appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E. Surma Valley Branch  
Membership Subscription.*

I am directed by the Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 118, dated 27th January 1931, with which you forwarded an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of your Branch Association on the 14th January 1931, together with particulars of the estimated income and expenditure of your Branch Association for the year 1931.

It is noted from these papers that, in order to meet, *inter alia*, your Branch Association's share of the expenditure connected with the appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox in terms of his agreement, it has been found necessary to raise your Association's membership subscription from 2½ annas to 5 annas per acre under tea cultivation. You enquire whether this action has the General Committee's approval.

As the London and Calcutta Associations have already approved of the terms and conditions under which the services of Mr. H. B. Fox have been obtained to represent the tea industry in the Legislative Assembly, and as it has been arranged for the expenditure connected with this appointment to be made from the funds of the Assam and Surma Valley Branch Association on a *pro rata* acreage basis, the Committee have no option in the matter, and they accordingly instruct me to inform you that they agree to your Association's membership subscription for the 1931 being raised to annas five per acre to meet the expenditure outlined in the statement of receipts and expenditure which you forwarded.

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**Proposals for Introduction of Compulsory Third  
Party Insurance.**

*Rule No. 46 from the Rules regarding the use of Motor Vehicles let  
or plying for hire in the public places outside the City of  
Bombay.*

"The District Superintendent of Police may in his discretion refuse to license any Motor Vehicle until the owner has taken out an insurance policy to cover passengers and third party risks. The amount of such policy shall not be less than Rs. 300/- per seat of the Vehicle and not less than Rs. 5,000/- for any one Vehicle provided that in the case of Vehicles licensed to carry fewer than seven passengers the District Superintendent of Police may fix a smaller amount."

Correspondence with reference to the proposed introduction of "third party insurance" in respect of public Motor Vehicles plying for hire in this province, having been previously circulated, and an expression of opinion asked for by the Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Division, it was agreed that the insertion of Rule No. 46 was both sound and necessary, and the Secretary, was directed to reply that this Committee were in favour of the proposal.

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**Police Charges in connection with the Disturbance  
at Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate.**

Further correspondence on this subject was laid on the table, and the Manager of Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate gave details of the heavy expenditure he had incurred for transporting and entertaining the Police. It was agreed that no reasonable charge under these headings would have been objected to, but that in this particular case these seemed unnecessarily high, and it was agreed to bring them to the notice of the officer concerned.

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**Payment of Travelling Expenses to Members of the Sub-  
Committee attending Meeting in Silchar, on 9th  
February re: Labour Rules.**

Payment of these was sanctioned at the same rate as those allowed for attending a Meeting of the General Committee.

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### **Proposal to include Cachar and Sylhet in Bengal.**

Mr. Roffey read to the Meeting a letter from Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E., on this subject, and asked for the views of this Branch in the form of a resolution for future guidance, when the question arose either in the Legislative Assembly or Council.

"It was unanimously agreed, that any proposal to transfer the tea districts of Cachar and Sylhet from the Government of Assam to that of Bengal, should be vigorously opposed whenever such proposals were made."

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 22nd April 1931.*

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### **Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 25th February 1931, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

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### **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Appointment of Secretary of the Branch.**

Mr. A. F. Stuart was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. H. M. James, Vice-Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year. In view of the fact that Mr. Stuart was shortly going on leave, Mr. James agreed to undertake the duties of Chairman till Mr. Stuart's return, subject to the consent of his Directors.

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C., was re-appointed Secretary.

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### **Assam Labour Board.**

Mr. G. E. Rayner was elected as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association on the Assam Labour Board, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. H. Emblen.

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**Assam Branch Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper was elected a member of the Committee of the above Association, in place of Mr. H. M. James, resigned.

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**House Allowance to I. T. A. Clerks.**

In view of the fact that two clerks were now employed it was agreed to sanction an allowance of Rs. 10/- per month to the Eastern Cachar Tea Company for providing them with accommodation.

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**Reduction of Production Costs.**

The Chairman and other representatives of the Branch, who attended the Conference held in Calcutta on the 23rd March, having referred to what took place - the Secretary read extracts from the Minutes of the various District Committees on the main subject on which an expression of opinion had been asked for, and was directed to record the following:—

*a) Abolition of Bonuses.*—Conditions differing as to rates of pay, rice land and other amenities in various gardens and districts, it was agreed that as it is impossible to bring these into line, this Committee cannot recommend the total abolishment of what are known as Agreement bonuses at the present time. This they consider is a question that must in the end be settled by Directors, on the advice of the local management. Enquiries from the various District Committees shew that opinions are very equally divided, some districts having already ceased to pay bonuses, and others being in favour of retaining them.

*(b) Rates of Pay for Bustiwallas as opposed to Residents on the Garden.*—Members from all districts unanimously agreed that the same rate of pay was both possible and desirable, and were in favour of Agency houses passing orders to that effect, on the understanding that rates of pay to bustiwallas refers to busti coolies only, and not to Bengali Labour employed by a contractor.

(c) *Over-lapping of Medical Practices and Extension of Same.* It was agreed that considerable savings could be effected by the re-organisation of Medical Practices, especially in Cachar. This Committee believe this can only be made effective by agreement amongst the Agency houses concerned, and suggest the formation of a Sub-Committee in Calcutta to include a Medical Officer with local knowledge, with power to call for statistics and prepare a map, showing the area of the present practices, and numbers of European and Tea Garden Employees in each.

(d) *Limitation to one Hazri per day for Individual Concerns.* It was agreed this could only be applied for few months in the year at best, and was impossible for the rest of the season, seeing that the daily wage varies on different gardens. No agreement to this effect seemed either reasonable or possible under present conditions.

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#### **Scientific Department Programme of Work for 1931.**

This was approved after previous circulation.

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#### **Tea Rates Road Board Meeting.**

The proceedings of the last meeting of this Board, together with the Superintending Engineer's recommendations as to the new alignment of the road to connect the Hailakandi and Chargola Valley Road Systems, having been previously circulated,—it was agreed that this alignment, which had been selected in consultation with the members from Hailakandi and Chargola, was the most satisfactory, and if constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,60,000 as estimated, would be far cheaper than other suggested routes. The member representing the Surnia Valley on the Tea Rates Road Board was directed to press for the commencement of the work as early as possible.

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**Propaganda for the sale of Tea in the Province.**

A letter from Mr. Hunt Ross was ordered to be recorded. The Committee could not see their way to support the proposals made.

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**District Committees.**

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees were read and ordered to be recorded:

Chargola-Longai District Committee Meetings held on 10th and 15th March and 14th April.					
North Cachar	District Committee Meeting held on 13th March,				
Happy Valley	.. .. .	..	..	14th	..
Chutla Bheel	.. .. .	..	..	30th	..
Luskerpore	.. .. .	..	..	2nd April.	
Hailakandi	.. .. .	..	..	4th	..
Mid-Sylhet	.. .. .	..	..	16th	..
Baliseia	.. .. .	..	..	11th	..

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**Chargola-Longai District Committee Meeting  
held on 15th March.**

The Chairman explained the action taken as regards the confidential letter he received with regard to cost of production and regretted that due to a misunderstanding on the part of the Vice-Chairman, representatives of the Chargola-Longai District Committee had not been invited to attend the Meeting called in Sylhet.

The Secretary agreed that there would be no difficulty in sending out a provisional agenda of the Meeting of the General Committee at the same time that a Meeting was called as suggested by two District Committees, and it was agreed to adopt this practice.

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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Hailakandi District  
Committee held on 4th April 1931.**

The question of the action taken by the Boiler Inspector when reporting on the want of attention he received on visiting a garden

in Hailakandi, and brought forward by the above Committee, was considered. The Secretary was directed to write the Boiler Inspector concerned, asking him to be good enough to let this Committee have a definite statement of his complaint, as so far they had only heard one side of the case.

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The following resolution was proposed by Mr. F. J. Heathcote:—

“In view of complaints of several cases of non-payment of bills by the Local Board, it is suggested that the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch should ascertain from the District Committees whether all districts are similarly affected, and if so an estimate of the amounts outstanding should be obtained, and the matter then taken up with the Government of Assam direct.”

General discussion on the subject brought out the information that as far as Cachar was concerned, payments were particularly prompt and regular, provided work done was approved before being undertaken. As there seemed no general complaint other than against the Maulvi Bazar and Karinganj Local Boards, the Committee did not see their way to take any action, and suggested that members in those areas should submit specific cases to the Secretary, which would be dealt with at the next Meeting.

Mr. V. G. Every brought up the question of Mr. Dawson's complaint as to delay in receiving the agenda of the last Tea Districts Labour Association Meeting. Mr. Rayner, Chairman of the Tea Districts Labour Association, explained the difficulties in preparing these agendas much in advance of the Meeting, which are the same as those experienced by the Branch. The Committee were not prepared to take any action in a matter they considered outside their sphere.

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#### **Further Conferences on the Question of Constitutional Reforms.**

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw spoke on the subject of endeavouring to get a representative of Mofussil European residents, appointed



to any future conference. The Secretary was directed to approach the Assam Branch for their views on the subject.

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In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Stuart for the time and energy he had devoted to the work of the Association, Mr. Grimshaw wished him a pleasant holiday on behalf of the Members of the Branch.

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### **Indian Factories Act.**

The following notification are published for information of all members of the Branch: —

No. 7829-G. J., dated 18th August 1930.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 32 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 [XII of 1911], as subsequently amended, and in supersession of the orders contained in Revenue Department Notification No. 8-R., dated the 3rd January 1927, the Governor-in-Council is pleased to exempt factories situated on and used solely for the purpose of tea plantations in the province of Assam from the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the said Act on the conditions specified below:—

- a*, that no person shall be employed continuously without a whole day's leave for more than fourteen days at a time,
- b*, that the number of workers employed on a particular job is always at least twenty-five per cent. greater than the number actually required to do the work at any given time, and
- (c)* that this exemption shall not apply in the case of the employment of children.

W. A. COSGRAVE,

*Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.*

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**Census Operations.**

Letter No. 2951-69, dated Shillong, 24th December 1930.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS,  
Assam,

To—All DISTRICT AND SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS of plain  
Districts and Subdivisions (except Sunamganj,  
Barpeta and Goalpara).

I have the honour to request you to ask all Tea Garden Managers in your jurisdiction to refrain as far as possible from sending coolies to their home or recruiting districts for a week before the date of the final census, *i.e.*, for a week before the 26th February 1931. The reason for this request is that if coolies are in transit on the census night they will be enumerated in the trains in which they are found and that such enumeration conducted—as it will be by persons who are not familiar with the various cooly castes and languages is bound to be defective. I hope, therefore, that the Managers concerned will in the interests of the accuracy of the Tea Garden statistics of Assam co-operate as far as they possibly can in this matter.

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**Examination of Motor Vehicle Drivers.**

Letter No. 28526-50-M. V., dated Shillong, 30th December 1930.

From—The OFFG. SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,  
Public Works Department,

To—All DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS in Assam, Superin-  
tendent, Lushai Hills, Political Officers, Sadiya  
and Balipara Frontier Tracts and Political  
Agent, Manipur.

*Examination of Professional Drivers.*

I am directed to invite a reference to rules 28(a) and 38, Part II of the new rules issued under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, *vide* this Department Notification No. 373-M. V., dated the 29th November 1930, and to draw your attention to the fact that with effect from 1st January 1931, the Inspector of Motor Vehicles will be required to examine only those professional drivers who are employed for driving motor vehicles on *hire*. This, in other words, means that professional drivers who are employed by private

**Formation of an Assam Medical Research Society.**

Proprietary interests having apparently agreed to subscribe to this scheme, Rs. 5,000/- had been included in the estimate of future expenditure as the possible amount this Branch might be asked to contribute. Opinions were expressed that it was doubtful as to the benefits the tea industry would receive from this Society, and that the conditions, on which this support should be continued were, that the Society worked in collaboration with the existing operations of the Ross Institute, and that the support should be given on the definite understanding that it commits the Industry only to a proportionate share of the maximum annual contribution expected from industrial interests, namely Rs. 15,000/-

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**Question of Payment of Police Charges for Lorry Hire, etc., in connection with disturbances on Tea Gardens.**

A particular case brought up by the Chutla Bheel District Committee, having been brought to the notice of this Committee, the Manager of the garden concerned was invited to state his case; he explained that at the present moment he was in correspondence with the Superintendent of Police on the subject. It was agreed that in this particular case the charges seemed exorbitant, and failing a satisfactory compromise the Secretary was directed to address the Commissioner on the general principle that payment of rates and taxes by Tea Companies entitles them to police protection in the event of riots as is given to other rate payers free of charge. The Manager concerned was advised to suspend payment and inform the Secretary before the next Meeting if a compromise with the Police Authorities had been arrived at.

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With reference to a Bill from Rai Sahib Hem Chandra Dutt, B.L., Advocate, Silchar, for Rs. 25/- a/c legal advice in connection with the above case, the Secretary was directed to arrange that a retaining fee of Rs. 10/- per month should be paid to this gentleman from 1st January 1931.

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### **Tea Rates Road Fund.**

A note on the present position of this fund and the action taken by the Branch's representative, who asked for further instructions as to future programme, was considered.

It was agreed by a majority that on completion of the works now in hand, the Tea Rates Road Fund Board be asked to devote the money collected in both the districts of Cachar and Sylhet, to a road to connect the Cachar and Sylhet Road Systems from Monacherra to the Chargola Valley. The question of tolls on bridges built from this fund next came up for discussion, and though members generally held that the principle by which a bridge built from this fund should be a toll bridge was a bad one—it was recognised that as in the case of the Monoo Bridge, no local authority would undertake the up-keep of these bridges unless entitled to charge a toll for this purpose. The member promised to get this toll limited to cover the actual cost of the annual up-keep, if possible:—it being felt that this would not fall heavily on neighbouring gardens who were getting a bridge in place of a toll ferry.

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### **Assam, Dooars and Terai: Proposed Inter-District Labour Agreement.**

Letter No. 1632-O., dated Calcutta, 5th November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you the accompanying copy of a letter dated 20th/24th October received by the General Committee from the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association. You will note from the letter that the suggestion has been made that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one district proceeding to gardens in another district, the gardens losing the services of the labourers should have a claim to re-imbursement of its recruiting expenses; and that an agreement to this effect should be come to between the various interests concerned. The General Committee will be glad if you will kindly favour them with your Association's views on the proposal at your convenience.

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*Extract from a letter dated 20th/24th October 1930, from the Tea Districts Labour Association.*

"The Chairman explained that as there is no labour Agreement between the Assam and Dooars districts it appeared to be advisable to settle the question of a garden's claims in the event of labour from that garden proceeding to an estate in the other district. The opinion of the Meeting was that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one area going to gardens in the other area, the original garden should have a claim to reimbursement of its expenses on importing the labour in question, provided that such labour had not been defaulting more than a year."

This correspondence, after previous circulation, was next considered. This Committee were entirely in agreement with the proposals, but suggested that to make them effective, a time limit of two years instead of one would be preferable.

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**The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.**

Copies of the Revised Draft Agreement were laid on the table after previous circulation. As the time at the disposal of the Committee did not admit of their being gone through in detail—a Sub-Committee of the following gentlemen, was requested to go into them, and submit a report before the General Meeting. The Secretary was directed to call a Meeting of this Sub-Committee for Monday, February 9th:—

The Chairman,	Mr. F. J. Heathcote,
Col. A. B. Beddow,	Mr. S. C. McBey.
Mr. A. McCreath.	The Secretary.

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**Labour Recruitment for Assam: Detention of Criminals  
and Verification of Antecedents.**

In replying to the Special Superintendent of Police, Assam, on the above subject, the Secretary was directed to protest strongly against the proposal, and to state the views of this Committee were

entirely in agreement with those of the Tea Districts Labour Association, as expressed in the following note:—

“The Tea Districts Labour Association had protested strongly to the local police authorities against the introduction of this rule, and they had asked for their objections to the proposed new rule to be placed before the Inspector-General with a view to the adoption in its stead of the simple method, suggested to the Madras Government in 1925, namely, the reporting to the police authorities in Assam, by the police in the recruiting district, of the departure to a destination, in Assam of any individual already under police surveillance. The Chairman of the Assam Labour Board had already informed the local police authorities that the general opinion of members of his Board was strongly against the proposal, he had also suggested the alternative put forward by the Tea Districts Labour Association.”

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**Formation of the Board of Referees under  
the Income-Tax Act.**

The Local Government having asked for a nominee of this Branch of the Association to sit on the above Board— Mr. G. E. Rayner consented to undertake the work.

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**Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association: Training of  
Coolie Dhais in Tea Gardens.**

The following letter dated 28th October 1930, from the Organising Secretary of the above Association for the Surma Valley, having been previously circulated was placed before the Meeting for consideration:—

As the Organising Secretary for the Surma Valley on behalf of the above Association for women's welfare work, I venture to approach you with the following suggestions and trust the same will receive your kind and sympathetic consideration.

It is an undisputed fact that child mortality in India could be considerably reduced if the women of India, in their confinement, had the benefit of trained maternity aid (in the service of duly qualified dhais, *i.e.*, midwives) and every effort is being made on behalf of the above Association to achieve that end. As one, whose husband is connected with the Tea Industry by occupation and also as an honorary worker on behalf of the above Association, I feel that it would be one of the noblest achievements of my life, if my humble services could be of any use in the matter of providing for trained maternity aid in tea gardens. Provisions of trained maternity aid will mean automatic decrease in child mortality which again in its turn would mean better attendance at work and that is a thing worth striving for in the interest of the Tea Industry itself. I would therefore expect that my suggestions would receive your sympathetic consideration.

I herewith enclose a dhai training scheme which is being worked by the St. Luke's Hospital, Chabua, for the purpose of training of Tea Garden Coolie Dhais in Assam and this scheme appears to me to be an easily workable one, and I venture to make the following suggestions:--

1. That the Lady Superintendent of the Mission Hospital, Habiganj, Sylhet) be approached on behalf of your Association to undertake training of coolie dhais on the lines detailed in the scheme herewith enclosed.
2. Should they be agreeable to undertake the work, they be requested to frame an estimate of initial expenses that would be required in constructing buildings, acquiring land if any is necessary, etc.
3. Regarding meeting initial expenses, I am reliably informed St. Luke's Hospital received a grant of Rs. 2,000/- from the Victoria Memorial Scholarship's Fund for the purpose, and I enclose herewith a letter from the Secretary of the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund which would go to show that they are quite prepared to sympathetically consider any dhai training scheme that might be placed before them. Should you succeed in persuading the Lady Superintendent of the Habiganj Mission Hospital to

undertake the work, I will be very pleased to place the scheme before Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund and move them for a grant similar to the one made to the St. Luke's Hospital and should there be any shortages, they might be made good by contributions from the various Companies that might wish to participate in the scheme.

I should be glad to hear your views in the matter at an early date. Kindly return the scheme as well as the letter from Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund after making out copies for your record. Thanking you.

The Secretary was directed to express the Committee's sympathy with the proposed training centre, and ask for further particulars as to the financial support the scheme is likely to receive from other interests outside tea. Also to record that from statistics taken from various tea gardens, the question as to whether infant mortality is high compared to other countries, is seriously disputed.

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#### **Abolition of Unified Stamps and Proposal for Separate Stamps for Postal and Revenue Purposes.**

The suggestions made by the Government were laid on the table after previous circulation. It was agreed to reply that this Committee were in favour of the abolition of unified stamps on the grounds that the revenue of the Local Government would benefit thereby.

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#### **Mr. E. S. Roffey's Leave.**

The following letter from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, having been previously circulated was laid on the table:—

I enclose copy of my Circular of 107, dated 13th August 1930, with copy enclosure thereto and copy extract from the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the General Committee of this Association held on the 23rd August last granting Mr. Roffey six month's leave in April 1931.



Mr. Roffey proposes to attend the Session of the Assam Legislative Council in March next, and to sail from Bombay by S. S. "Ranchi" on the 4th April next. He will therefore only be absent from the Assam Legislative Council during the weekly Autumn Session, which is generally held in September and under these circumstances it is considered he should retain his seat on Council during his absence.

Mr. Buckingham Jones will act for Mr. Roffey as Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association while he is on leave and will advise your Association at any time you may desire.

I am directed to ask your Association to be good enough to join in sanctioning Mr. Roffey's leave as above-mentioned.

The delay in informing you of the above arrangements has been due to the fact that the date of the next Spring Session was unknown. I understand it has now been provisionally fixed for the 9th to the 28th March 1931.

Agreement was expressed to the sanction of six month's leave in 1931, on the grounds given in the Circular, viz., that changes in the Constitution are likely to take place in 1932.

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#### **Binnakandi Telegraph Office.**

This office being guaranteed against losses by the Managers of two neighbouring gardens to the extent of Rs. 300/- per annum, it was agreed that as the Office is of primary importance to the Branch, to bear one-third of the losses as long as the Indian Tea Association office is situated at Binnakandi, if the Postal Authorities refused to continue it on any other conditions. The attitude of the Postal Authorities to several guaranteed offices in Cachar being the cause of much dissatisfaction—especially as regards their inability to produce accounts showing how the losses are made, and the arbitrary manner of their demands, the Secretary will be glad to hear from other members using guaranteed offices, with a view to bringing this to the notice of their representative on the Legislative Assembly -Telegraphs being the Central subject.

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**District Committees.**

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees were read and ordered to be recorded :—

Balisera	District Committee Meeting held on	19-11-30.
Mid-Sylhet	„ „ „ „ „	27-11-30.
Luskerpore	„ „ „ „ „	1-12-30.

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Mr. D. Paterson, who represents the Tea Industry on the Assam-Bengal Railway—Local Advisory Committee, promised to look into the timings on the Habiganj Bazar and Balla Branch Railways, brought up by the Luskerpore District Committee.

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**Annual General Meeting of the Branch in Silchar.**

The date of this was fixed for Wednesday, the 25th February 1931.

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 25th February 1931.*

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**Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 14th January 1931, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

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**Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.**

It was unanimously agreed to confirm the findings of the Sub-Committee appointed to go into the various drafts of revised rules

as representing the views of the members of this Branch of the Association, these are as follows:—

Minutes of a Meeting of a Sub-Committee held in Silchar on Monday, February 9th to examine the various proposals made with reference to Revision of the Labour Rules.

PRESENT:

Mr. A. F. Stuart (*Chairman*).  
Lt.-Col. A. B. Beddow.  
Mr. F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.  
„ S. G. McBey.  
„ W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.

Papers considered:—

- (1) Letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.
- (2) Circular from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, dated the 11th August 1930, headed "The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement: Proposed Revision."
- (3) Minutes of a Meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to revise the Labour Rules Agreement held in Silchar on Wednesday, 28th August, 1929.
- (4) Revised Draft Agreement suggested by the following Sub-Committee:—

Mr. T. C. Crawford,  
„ A. S. Macalister,  
„ K. B. Miller,

- (5) Committee paper dated 11th August 1930, with columnar statement.

The above Committee having considered these papers more especially the Draft Rules No. 4 prepared by the Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, record that they infinitely prefer the rules drafted by a Committee of this Branch of the Association (No. 3) as being far simpler and more suitable for practical purposes under conditions in the Surma Valley. They recom-

mend that in this Draft, Rule 2 should be amended so as to read "within the preceding three years" instead of "within the preceding twelve months." They would also add to this draft the following Clause taken from the Calcutta draft No. 3,—

"The provisions of this clause shall not apply in cases of marriages between labourers from different gardens, it being expressly agreed that no restriction shall be imposed in such cases and no penalties enacted under this agreement, but the new employer shall refund *bona fide* advances of the labour transferred."

They suggest to the General Committee that they see no good reasons the rules as recommended by their previous Sub-Committee (No. 3) should not be introduced in the Surma Valley, leaving the Brahmaputra Valley where conditions differ to some extent to frame their own rules.

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Mr. E. S. Roffey informed the Meeting that the Assam Branch were considering the draft rules on the 7th March, and made several observations on points in the draft rules No. 4, prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which he personally thought would have to be modified to meet existing conditions.

The Secretary was directed to reply to letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that this Branch considered the rules drafted by their Sub-Committee in August 1929, with additions made above, as more suitable in principle and in practice for the Surma Valley than others suggested.

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Letter dated Calcutta, the 5th February 1931.

From—MESSRS. JAMES FINLAY & CO., LTD.,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement:  
Proposed Revision.*

In continuation with the above question which was raised at the meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on December

the 2nd, we quote hereunder extracts of advices from the Secretaries of the Baraooora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited.

"We notice from pages 2 and 3 of the abstract of proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on December 2nd that discussion took place on the proposed revision of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement. We have also read the two new drafts for proposed rules, the one being Mr. T. A. Chalmers' draft and the other that drawn up by the Shillong Conference in September 1929. The Chairman is of the opinion that when coolies have been given leave by a local magistrate to leave the garden which recruited them, the garden in this event should have no further claim on them. You will doubtless remember that this company has had a case involving such an occurrence as mentioned, and as the Chairman's views coincide with those of our senior manager, we think such views might be brought to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations.

We shall be obliged if you will bring the above to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations.

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This letter having been read to the Meeting, it was unanimously agreed that this Committee strongly object to any suggestion to insert a clause of this sort in the Labour Rules, which they look on as a private agreement between employers of labour. They consider the principle is bad, that it would encourage coolies wishing to change their employer to go into the Court, and that the fact that they have done so, should not absolve any Manager subsequently employing them from payment of a transfer fee.

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#### **Surma Valley Branch--Membership Subscription.**

The following letter having been received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, was ordered to be recorded, and the Secretary

was directed to collect subscriptions for the present year at the rate of 5 annas per acre:—

Letter No. 240-O., dated Calcutta, 17th February 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Representation of the Tea Industry in the Legislative Assembly  
Appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E. Surma Valley Branch  
Membership Subscription.*

I am directed by the Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 118, dated 27th January 1931, with which you forwarded an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of your Branch Association on the 11th January 1931, together with particulars of the estimated income and expenditure of your Branch Association for the year 1931.

It is noted from these papers that, in order to meet, *inter alia*, your Branch Association's share of the expenditure connected with the appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox in terms of his agreement, it has been found necessary to raise your Association's membership subscription from 2½ annas to 5 annas per acre under tea cultivation. You enquire whether this action has the General Committee's approval.

As the London and Calcutta Associations have already approved of the terms and conditions under which the services of Mr. H. B. Fox have been obtained to represent the tea industry in the Legislative Assembly, and as it has been arranged for the expenditure connected with this appointment to be made from the funds of the Assam and Surma Valley Branch Association on a *pro rata* acreage basis, the Committee have no option in the matter, and they accordingly instruct me to inform you that they agree to your Association's membership subscription for the 1931 being raised to annas five per acre to meet the expenditure outlined in the statement of receipts and expenditure which you forwarded.

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**Proposals for Introduction of Compulsory Third  
Party Insurance.**

*Rule No. 46 from the Rules regarding the use of Motor Vehicles let  
or plying for hire in the public places outside the City of  
Bombay.*

"The District Superintendent of Police may in his discretion refuse to license any Motor Vehicle until the owner has taken out an insurance policy to cover passengers and third party risks. The amount of such policy shall not be less than Rs. 300/- per seat of the Vehicle and not less than Rs. 5,000/- for any one Vehicle provided that in the case of Vehicles licensed to carry fewer than seven passengers the District Superintendent of Police may fix a smaller amount."

Correspondence with reference to the proposed introduction of "third party insurance" in respect of public Motor Vehicles plying for hire in this province, having been previously circulated, and an expression of opinion asked for by the Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Division, it was agreed that the insertion of Rule No. 46 was both sound and necessary, and the Secretary, was directed to reply that this Committee were in favour of the proposal.

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**Police Charges in connection with the Disturbance  
at Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate.**

Further correspondence on this subject was laid on the table, and the Manager of Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate gave details of the heavy expenditure he had incurred for transporting and entertaining the Police. It was agreed that no reasonable charge under these headings would have been objected to, but that in this particular case these seemed unnecessarily high, and it was agreed to bring them to the notice of the officer concerned.

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**Payment of Travelling Expenses to Members of the Sub-  
Committee attending Meeting in Silchar, on 9th  
February re: Labour Rules.**

Payment of these was sanctioned at the same rate as those allowed for attending a Meeting of the General Committee.

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**Proposal to include Cachar and Sylhet in Bengal.**

Mr. Roffey read to the Meeting a letter from Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E., on this subject, and asked for the views of this Branch in the form of a resolution for future guidance, when the question arose either in the Legislative Assembly or Council.

"It was unanimously agreed, that any proposal to transfer the tea districts of Cachar and Sylhet from the Government of Assam to that of Bengal, should be vigorously opposed whenever such proposals were made."

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*Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in Silchar,  
on Wednesday, the 22nd April 1931.*

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**Proceedings.**

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 25th February 1931, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

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**Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and  
Appointment of Secretary of the Branch.**

Mr. A. F. Stuart was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. H. M. James, Vice-Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year. In view of the fact that Mr. Stuart was shortly going on leave, Mr. James agreed to undertake the duties of Chairman till Mr. Stuart's return, subject to the consent of his Directors.

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C., was re-appointed Secretary.

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**Assam Labour Board.**

Mr. G. E. Rayner was elected as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association on the Assam Labour Board, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. H. Emblen.

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**Assam Branch Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper was elected a member of the Committee of the above Association, in place of Mr. H. M. James, resigned.

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**House Allowance to I. T. A. Clerks.**

In view of the fact that two clerks were now employed it was agreed to sanction an allowance of Rs. 10/- per month to the Eastern Cachar Tea Company for providing them with accommodation.

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**Reduction of Production Costs.**

The Chairman and other representatives of the Branch, who attended the Conference held in Calcutta on the 23rd March, having referred to what took place—the Secretary read extracts from the Minutes of the various District Committees on the main subject on which an expression of opinion had been asked for, and was directed to record the following:—

a) *Abolition of Bonuses.*—Conditions differing as to rates of pay, rice land and other amenities in various gardens and districts, it was agreed that as it is impossible to bring these into line, this Committee cannot recommend the total abolishment of what are known as Agreement bonuses at the present time. This they consider is a question that must in the end be settled by Directors, on the advice of the local management. Enquiries from the various District Committees shew that opinions are very equally divided, some districts having already ceased to pay bonuses, and others being in favour of retaining them.

(b) *Rates of Pay for Bustiwallas as opposed to Residents on the Garden.*—Members from all districts unanimously agreed that the same rate of pay was both possible and desirable, and were in favour of Agency houses passing orders to that effect, on the understanding that rates of pay to bustiwallas refers to busti coolies only, and not to Bengali Labour employed by a contractor,

(c) *Over-lapping of Medical Practices and Extension of Same.*—It was agreed that considerable savings could be effected by the re-organisation of Medical Practices, especially in Cachar. This Committee believe this can only be made effective by agreement amongst the Agency houses concerned, and suggest the formation of a Sub-Committee in Calcutta to include a Medical Officer with local knowledge, with power to call for statistics and prepare a map, showing the area of the present practices, and numbers of European and Tea Garden Employees in each.

(d) *Limitation to one Hazri per day for Individual Concerns.*—It was agreed this could only be applied for few months in the year at best, and was impossible for the rest of the season, seeing that the daily wage varies on different gardens. No agreement to this effect seemed either reasonable or possible under present conditions.

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#### **Scientific Department Programme of Work for 1931.**

This was approved after previous circulation.

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#### **Tea Rates Road Board Meeting.**

The proceedings of the last meeting of this Board, together with the Superintending Engineer's recommendations as to the new alignment of the road to connect the Hailakandi and Chargola Valley Road Systems, having been previously circulated,—it was agreed that this alignment, which had been selected in consultation with the members from Hailakandi and Chargola, was the most satisfactory, and if constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,60,000 as estimated, would be far cheaper than other suggested routes. The member representing the Surma Valley on the Tea Rates Road Board was directed to press for the commencement of the work as early as possible.

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**Propaganda for the sale of Tea in the Province.**

A letter from Mr. Hunt Ross was ordered to be recorded. The Committee could not see their way to support the proposals made.

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**District Committees.**

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees were read and ordered to be recorded:—

Chargola-Longai District Committee Meetings held on 10th and 15th March and 14th April.	
North Cachar District Committee Meeting held on 13th March.	
Happy Valley	„ „ „ „ „ 14th „
Chutla Bheel	„ „ „ „ „ 30th „
Luskerpore	„ „ „ „ „ 2nd April.
Hailakandi	„ „ „ „ „ 4th „
Mil-Sylhet	„ „ „ „ „ 16th „
Baliseia	„ „ „ „ „ 14th „

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**Chargola-Longai District Committee Meeting held on 15th March.**

The Chairman explained the action taken as regards the confidential letter he received with regard to cost of production and regretted that due to a misunderstanding on the part of the Vice-Chairman, representatives of the Chargola-Longai District Committee had not been invited to attend the Meeting called in Sylhet.

The Secretary agreed that there would be no difficulty in sending out a provisional agenda of the Meeting of the General Committee at the same time that a Meeting was called as suggested by two District Committees, and it was agreed to adopt this practice.

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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Hailakandi District Committee held on 4th April 1931.**

The question of the action taken by the Boiler Inspector when reporting on the want of attention he received on visiting a garden

in Hailakandi, and brought forward by the above Committee, was considered. The Secretary was directed to write the Boiler Inspector concerned, asking him to be good enough to let this Committee have a definite statement of his complaint, as so far they had only heard one side of the case.

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The following resolution was proposed by Mr. F. J. Heathcote:--

"In view of complaints of several cases of non-payment of bills by the Local Board, it is suggested that the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch should ascertain from the District Committees whether all districts are similarly affected, and if so an estimate of the amounts outstanding should be obtained, and the matter then taken up with the Government of Assam direct."

General discussion on the subject brought out the information that as far as Cachar was concerned, payments were particularly prompt and regular, provided work done was approved before being undertaken. As there seemed no general complaint other than against the Manvi Bazar and Karinganj Local Boards, the Committee did not see their way to take any action, and suggested that members in those areas should submit specific cases to the Secretary, which would be dealt with at the next Meeting.

Mr. V. G. Every brought up the question of Mr. Dawson's complaint as to delay in receiving the agenda of the last Tea Districts Labour Association Meeting. Mr. Rayner, Chairman of the Tea Districts Labour Association, explained the difficulties in preparing these agendas much in advance of the Meeting, which are the same as those experienced by the Branch. The Committee were not prepared to take any action in a matter they considered outside their sphere.

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#### **Further Conferences on the Question of Constitutional Reforms.**

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw spoke on the subject of endeavouring to get a representative of Mofussil European residents, appointed

to any future conference. The Secretary was directed to approach the Assam Branch for their views on the subject.

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In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Stuart for the time and energy he had devoted to the work of the Association, Mr. Grimshaw wished him a pleasant holiday on behalf of the Members of the Branch.

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### **Indian Factories Act.**

The following notification are published for information of all members of the Branch: -

No. 7829-G. J., dated 18th August 1930.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 32 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as subsequently amended, and in supersession of the orders contained in Revenue Department Notification No. 8-R., dated the 3rd January 1927, the Governor-in-Council is pleased to exempt factories situated on and used solely for the purpose of tea plantations in the province of Assam from the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the said Act on the conditions specified below: -

- a) that no person shall be employed continuously without a whole day's leave for more than fourteen days at a time,
- b) that the number of workers employed on a particular job is always at least twenty-five per cent. greater than the number actually required to do the work at any given time, and
- c) that this exemption shall not apply in the case of the employment of children.

W. A. COSGRAVE,  
*Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.*

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**Census Operations.**

Letter No. 2051-69, dated Shillong, 24th December 1930.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS,  
Assam,

To—All DISTRICT AND SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS of plain  
Districts and Subdivisions (except Sunamganj,  
Barpeta and Goalpara).

I have the honour to request you to ask all Tea Garden Managers in your jurisdiction to refrain as far as possible from sending coolies to their home or recruiting districts for a week before the date of the final census, *i.e.*, for a week before the 26th February 1931. The reason for this request is that if coolies are in transit on the census night they will be enumerated in the trains in which they are found and that such enumeration conducted—as it will be by persons who are not familiar with the various cooly castes and languages is bound to be defective. I hope, therefore, that the Managers concerned will—in the interests of the accuracy of the Tea Garden statistics of Assam co-operate as far as they possibly can in this matter.

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**Examination of Motor Vehicle Drivers.**

Letter No. 28526-50-M. V., dated Shillong, 30th December 1930.

From—The OFFG. SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,  
Public Works Department,

To—All DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS in Assam, Superin-  
tendent, Lushai Hills, Political Officers, Sadiya  
and Balipara Frontier Tracts and Political  
Agent, Manipur.

*Examination of Professional Drivers.*

I am directed to invite a reference to rules 28 *a*) and 38, Part II of the new rules issued under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, *vide* this Department Notification No. 373-M. V., dated the 29th November 1930, and to draw your attention to the fact that with effect from 1st January 1931, the Inspector of Motor Vehicles will be required to examine only those professional drivers who are employed for driving motor vehicles on *hire*. This, in other words, means that professional drivers who are employed by private

owners for vehicles not plying on hire, or the tea garden vehicles which ply for the carriage of their own product, or goods, will not be required to appear for examination before the Inspector of Motor Vehicles, as at present.

2. In granting a professional driving license to drive a motor vehicles not plying for hire the following words should be written across the license:—

"This license does not entitle the holder to drive a motor vehicle plying for hire."

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**Tea Districts Labour Association's Special Circular.**

Dated Calcutta, 7th January 1931.

Referring to our Circular dated 12th April 1930, our Agent at Chandpur reports that he is experiencing considerable difficulty in embarking downward sirdars and repatriated coolies when they arrive by the 2 Down, as the Steamer Agent insists on more notice being given him for the reservation of accommodation than is allowed between the arrival of 2 Down and the departure of the Steamer. If accommodation is not reserved it means that a number of sirdars and labourers have to be detained at the depot and to avoid this we shall be glad if Managers will make a point of utilising the 8 Down arriving at Chandpur at 18:34 hours.

(Sd.) BEGG DUNLOP & Co., LTD.,

*Secretaries,*

TEA DISTRICTS LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

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**A. B. Rly: Issue of week-end tickets.**

Letter No. RG-58/45-O., dated Chittagong, 12th January 1931.

From—The TRAFFIC MANAGER, Assam-Bengal Railway,

To—MR. D. PATERSON, Aenakhil Tea Estate, Monacherra P. O.

*Intimation to Members of the Assam-Bengal Railway Advisory Committee Regarding Distance Limit for the issue of Week-End Return Tickets.*

I have to inform you that with effect from the 1st February 1931, Inter and Third class Week-end return tickets will be issued

at 1½ fares from any stations to any stations in local booking for distances of 50 miles and over from the issuing station instead of 16 miles and over as heretofore.

This is being done to fall in line with the Eastern Bengal Railway.

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**Exemption from Income-Tax—Bonus or Commission paid to Employees on Leave in the United Kingdom or a Colony.**

No. 6620-21 A/31 of 1930-31, dated Shillong, 20th March 1931.

From—The ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER of Income-Tax,  
Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Surma  
Valley Branch, Binnakandi P. O., Cachar.

I have the honour to state that the Central Board of Revenue has decided that where the whole or any part of an annual bonus or commission, due to an employee, whether under contract or otherwise, is paid in the United Kingdom or a colony, to that employee, while on leave in the United Kingdom or such colony, an amount not exceeding 1/12th of the annual payment for every month spent on leave in the United Kingdom or such colony will be regarded as "leave salary or leave allowance" and will be exempt from tax e.g., if the whole commission paid on leave amounts to Rs. 12,000/- and the leave lasts 7 months. Rs. 7,000/- will be exempt from tax.

2. This concession will not apply to advance commission drawn on leave unless the terms of the contract between an employer and an employee specially provide for the annual or monthly payment of commission in advance.

3. It should be understood, that the concession applies only to *bona fide* commission regularly paid, and that if it is found in any case that an excessive sum over and above the normal commission is paid, with the object of obtaining an undue advantage the Income-Tax Department reserves to itself the right to tax the whole of this commission in the hands of the person or company paying the same.



4. The concession outlined in para. 1 above will be operative as with effect from 1st April 1931, and assesseees will be entitled to obtain the benefits of the concession in their assessment of 1931-32. No arrear claims however will be entertainable.

I shall be glad if you will kindly communicate the purport of these instructions to the members of your Association.

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**Assam Government Radio Communication Scheme.**

Dated Bombay, 23rd March 1931.

From—The SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, of the Indian  
Radio Telegraph Company, Limited,

To—W. E. D. COOPER, ESQR., M.L.C., Shillong.

In confirmation of my interview today with yourself, Colonel Garbett, and Mr. Witherington, and after having discussed the matter with Mr. Cooke, Divisional Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs, Shillong, it appears that what the Assam Government requires is not a series of permanent radio telegraph stations capable of providing an uninterrupted 24 hours a day service between Shillong and the 13 Districts, costing anything up to Rupees Lakhs  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , but rather a reliable means of intercommunication purely for emergency purposes, auxiliary to and supplementing the telegraph system, to be used in case of interruption of the land-lines caused by floods, earthquake, civil commotion and similar disturbances.

Such a scheme can be provided very cheaply by means of small, modern, shortwave wireless stations. A continuous 24 hours a day service cannot be guaranteed between Shillong and all the stations, Jorhat, Kohima, Sylhet, Silchar, Aijal, Tura, Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong, Charduar, Dibrugarh and Sadiya, but intercommunication will be possible for a minimum of 4 to 5 hours a day.

The Marconi Company has produced a series of simple, robust, inexpensive shortwave transmitting and receiving sets known as the ZB apparatus. This gear can be operated by semi-skilled personnel and is most admirably adapted to the requirements under consideration. The cost per complete station, including mast, is

in the neighbourhood of Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 7,000/-, according to the type of station, *i.e.*, portable, semi-portable, or permanent, and whether power is available at the wireless office. Special buildings are not required; almost any ground-floor room will suffice. Maintenance costs are small and should not exceed Rs. 800/- per station per annum.

The most economical procedure would be to have the wireless sets installed at the telegraph offices and for the Assam Government to arrange with the Telegraph Department for the sets to be operated by the Department's signallers. In certain cases an extra man would probably have to be engaged, at Rs. 80, 100 per mensem, plus pension rights.

The Marconi ZB sets can communicate either by Morse code or wireless telephony. Thus, if necessary, telephone communications could be broadcast for the information of planters having private listening sets. Communication would ordinarily be by Morse signalling and follow ordinary land-line routine.

Mr. Cook, the Assam Divisional Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs, is a wireless expert. If two ZB wireless sets can be brought, one for installation at Shillong and one to be moved from place to place, the test data necessary to determine the most suitable waveband for communication in Assam can readily be obtained.

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*Progress Report on projects on the First Road Board Programme  
in Assam being carried out by Public Works Department  
for the month of February 1931.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Serial No.	Name of work.	Amount of sanctioned estimate.	Expenditure to 31st March 1930.	Allotment for the current year.	Expenditure during the current year.	Remarks and brief notes as to the state of construction reached.
	SURMA VALLEY.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Metalling the Sylhet-Jaintiapur road—2.66 miles.	51,485	51,087	...	...	Completed in March 1930.
2	Metalling Sylhet-Companyganj road from Malaicherra to Salutikar—1.99 miles.	1,01,109	47,530	37,000	33,965	Against 1,186,110 c.ft. of earthwork required 1,209,503 c.ft. have been done to date 40,970 c.ft. against 80,439 c.ft. of soling stone have been laid; bricks for soling collected in full quantity. Collection of metal amounts to 104,820 c.ft. against 133,210 c.ft. required. First 3" coat of metal have been consolidated over the whole of the 3rd to 6th mile. Second 3" coat done over miles 3rd to 5th and 6 furlongs of the 6th.
3	Bridging the Cachar Trunk road from 32nd mile to 35th mile.	18,825	17,508	200	200	Completed in February 1931.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Serial No.	Name of work.	Amount of sanctioned estimate	Expenditure to 31st March 1930.	Allotment for the current year.	Expenditure during the current year.	Remarks and brief notes as to the state of construction reached.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
4	Metalling the Kulaura- Brahman-bazar road—5 miles 30 feet.	2,15,024	1,21,513	73,000	67,139	Earthwork completed. Brick collected for soling are 762,150 against 784,600. 233,180 c.ft. brick soling laid against 261,630 required. 99,256 c.ft. of brick and laterite metal collected against 130,575 c.ft. required. 3" coat metal laid in full length of 16th about 7 furlongs of 17th, about 6 furlongs of 18th, 7 furlongs of 19th, & whole of 20th and 21st miles. Whole of the 20th and 21st miles & have been laid over with second 3" coat. Bridge work completed except masonry coating on the roadway.
5	Metalling the Lalabazar-Katlicherra road—4 miles.	92,699	61,195	27,259	27,119	Completed except for some petty items.
6	Metalling Banskan di-Lakhipur road—43 miles.	83,677	65,962	18,915	18,521	Completed in February 1931.
7	Widening and metalling roads within Silchar Municipality—181 miles.	19,882	17,152	...	...	Completed in February 1931.
8	Metalling road from Shaistaganj Bazar to Shaistaganj Railway Station—140 miles.	47,909	6,205	90,006	18,736	Collection of metal and soling bricks completed.

**Representation of the Tea Industry in the Legislative  
Assembly: Mr. H. B. Fox, C. I. E.**

No. 1710-O., dated Calcutta, 19th November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea  
Association.

I am directed to refer to my letter No. 1399-O., dated 8th 9th September last in which I mentioned that the General Committee had asked the Indian Tea Association, London to approach Mr. H. B. Fox with a view to his appointment as the prospective representative of the Assam European constituency of the Legislative Assembly. I also explained that the settlement of the terms of the appointment had been left to the discretion of the London Committee, on the definite understanding that London would agree to the necessary increase in the Assam and Surma Valley Branch Association's membership subscriptions.

2. The General Committee have since been informed by the Indian Tea Association, London, that Mr. Fox has accepted the appointment; and they have been furnished with a copy of the three years agreement entered with him. The agreement, of which I enclose a copy herewith, provides for the remuneration of Mr. Fox at the rate of Rs. 3,000/- per month from the date of his arrival in Calcutta, plus travelling expenses during the course of his duties, with free sea passages to Calcutta for himself and his wife, and similar free passages when he proceeds on leave after 18 months' service in India. Mr. Fox is sailing for India on board the s.s. "Kaisar-i-hind", which leaves London on 21st November. He should therefore reach Calcutta about the second week of December; and he will doubtless proceed to Shillong shortly thereafter. Meanwhile it will be necessary for the Assam and Surma Valley Branch Associations to review their respective financial positions and to make provision for the payment of Mr. Fox's salary and expenses. The Committee understand that the two Branch Associations will share the expenses of the appointment on a *pro-rata* acreage basis, and they will be glad to receive, in due course, particulars of the arrangement come to, and of any increase which may be necessary in the two Associations' rate of membership subscription, in order that these particulars may be communicated to

the London Association. The Committee will also leave to Mr. Roffey the question of arranging for the inclusion of Mr. Fox's name in the electoral roll of the constituency. But you will doubtless keep them advised of all developments. In this connection, you will note that provision has been made in the agreement for the termination of the appointment, without notice, in the event of Mr. Fox not being eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly or any such federal body constituted by the Government of India in place of the present Legislative Assembly.

3. The Indian Tea Association, London, have already paid to Mr. Fox a sum of £140 being the equivalent of two first class passages from London to Calcutta for himself and Mrs. Fox; and they have asked for a remittance in repayment of this outlay. I am meanwhile paying this amount from the funds of this Association and am placing it to suspense for recovery from you after the necessary financial arrangements have been made in consultation with the Surma Valley Branch.

4. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Surma Valley Branch Association for information.

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No. 1711-O.

Copy to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, together with a copy of Mr. Fox's agreement, for information, in continuation of the undersigned's endorsement No. 1100-O., dated 8th 9th September.

D. C. FAIRBAIRN,

CALCUTTA, 19th November 1930.

for Secretary.

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Agreement made this the seventh day of October 1930, between the Indian Tea Association of London and Calcutta of the one part hereinafter called "the Association" and Henry Benedict Fox of 38B, Trebovir Road, London, S. W. 5, hereinafter called "the Employee" of the other part whereby it is agreed as follows:—

1. The Employee will proceed to Calcutta by the steamer leaving London about the end of October, 1930 and will serve the

Association in the capacity of representative of the Assam (European) Constituency on the Indian Legislative Assembly or on any other Federal Body which may hereafter be constituted for a period of three years calculated from the date of his arrival in Calcutta.

2. During the said term of three years the Employee shall diligently and faithfully serve the Association in the manner aforesaid and shall not give his services directly or indirectly to any other person, company or Association for any purpose whatsoever.

3. The Employee shall receive a monthly salary of Rs. 3,000 calculated from the date of his arrival at Calcutta. He shall also be entitled to a first-class passage from London to Calcutta for himself and his wife.

4. The Employee shall also be entitled to all travelling expenses incurred during the course of his duties.

5. In case of any misconduct, breach of trust or incompetence or of any act prejudicial to the interests of the Association on the part of the Employee, the Association may determine this Agreement forthwith and without notice and in such case the Employee shall only be entitled to his salary to the date of the determination.

6. In the event of the employee not being eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly or any such Federal Body constituted by the Government of India in place of the present Legislative Assembly, the Association may without giving previous notice dispense with the services of the said employee. In the event of the Association exercising the power of termination by this clause given they shall give the employee and his wife a first-class passage back to England provided that he undertakes to return to England immediately.

7. After eighteen months' service in India the Employee shall be entitled to such leave on full pay as may be decided upon between the parties together with free passage first-class for himself and wife to England. Further return passages also will be granted provided the Employee resumes his appointment.

8. Provided always and it is hereby agreed that unless either party hereto shall give to the other of them at least six calendar months' notice prior to the expiration of the said period of three

years of their or his intention to terminate this Agreement the same shall continue in force on the terms hereinbefore contained subject to any modification thereof as to salary or otherwise which may be mutually agreed upon from year to year until terminated by at least six calendar months' notice on either side such notice to expire at the end of each further year of service.

As witness the hands of the parties the day and year first above written.

Signed on behalf of the Indian Tea Association of London and Calcutta in the presence of } W. H. Pease (Signed.)

(Sd) R. E. J. Hammond, Clerk.

Signed by the said Henry Benedict Fox in the presence of } H. B. Fox (Signed.)

(Sd). G. H. Mardon,  
Assistant Secretary.

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Dated Shillong, 14th February 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Representation of the Tea Industry in the Legislative Assembly and Assam Medical Research Society.*

I am directed to refer you to my letter of the 3rd December 1930, in reply to your letter No. 1710-O., dated the 19th November last on the above subject.

I enclose copy extract from my letter of the 13th December 1930 to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch. In reply there to I recently received a copy of the latter's letter No. 118, dated the 27th ultimo your Association, with copy enclosure therein referred to.



The question of this Branch's share of the annual subscription of Rs. 15,000/- to the Assam Medical Research Society was not considered in my letter of the 13th December 1930, abovementioned. On the assumption that the Surma Valley Branch and Industries other than tea, will subscribe Rs. 5,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- respectively per annum, the balance Rs. 7,000/- per annum will have to be subscribed by this Association. This will entail an increase of 5 pies per planted acre for Medical Research.

From my letter of the 13th December 1930 to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, you will observe that the necessary increase of this Association's subscription would be one anna nine pies per planted acre. This would include the increased subscription being paid on 5,342 acres belonging to Indian members. You will observe from the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch's letter of the 27th January last to your Association the suggestion that the increased subscription in respect of Mr. Fox's appointment should only be collected from concerns under European control, and with this proposal this Association agrees, unless the desire of such Indian concerns is expressed to subscribe.

Under the above circumstances the increase necessitated by the subscription of this Branch to the Assam Medical Research Society and to Mr. Fox's appointment will amount to not less than - 2 6 two annas six pies; per planted acre, making the total future subscription to be payable by all members of this Association other than Indian concerns, five annas per planted acre.

In this connection I may mention this Branch's accounts for 1930 have last week been audited and shows a debit balance of Rs. 2,742-15-7. A copy thereof will be sent you next week.

On the 29th ultimo Mr. H. B. Fox requested me to inform him what arrangements had been made for disbursement of his salary. Under these circumstances I am directed to ask your Committee to authorise the increase of this Association's subscription to - 5/- per planted acre and to request all Agency Houses to instruct their concerns in the Assam Valley to pay their subscriptions to me at such rate.

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Dated Shillong, 12th March 1931.

From The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Representation of the Tea Industry in the Legislative Assembly:  
Appointment of Mr. H. B. Fox, C.I.E., Assam Valley Branch  
Membership subscription.*

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your Memo. No. 241-O., dated the 17th February last endorsed on copy of your letter No. 240-O. of the same date to the Secretary Surma Valley Branch and asking for further definite advices with reference to my letter No. 243, dated the 3rd December 1930.

I am to inform you that arrangements have now been made between this and the Surma Valley Branch by which this Association will bear two-thirds of the expenditure already incurred, and to be incurred, in respect of the above appointment, the Surma Valley Branch paying the remaining one-third thereof.

No payment on this account can however be made by either Association until after the increased subscription necessitated thereby has been authorised and paid. When these subscriptions have been received Mr. Fox will be paid his salary each month by each Branch direct in the proportions above-mentioned.

Under these circumstances I am to ask your Committee to be good enough to authorise the increased subscription, and to request all Agency Houses to issue the instructions with reference thereto, mentioned in the last paragraph of my letter of the 14th February last.

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**Verification of antecedents of Labour Imported  
into Assam.**

No. <sup>6481-84</sup><sub>V. M. 104-30</sub> C.I.D., dated Shillong, 20th November 1930.

From The SPECIAL SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE IN  
CHARGE OF C.I.D., etc., Assam,

To The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea  
Association, Binnakandi.

I am directed by the Inspector General of Police to send herewith a copy of the proposed rule regarding the verification of the antecedents of labour imported into Assam which he intends to incorporate in the Assam

T. P. M. O'Callaghan, I.P.,  
Inspector General of Police,  
Assam.

Police Manual now under compilation. The rule is self-explanatory and intended to facilitate better control of bad characters in tea garden I am to request you will be so good as to favour him with your views or criticism to the proposed rule.

All labour imported into Assam from provinces where Act VI of 1901 is in force passes through the hands of local agents in the various recruiting areas and it has been arranged with the Tea Districts Labour Association that when any batch of coolies is despatched to Assam, the local recruiting agent will send to the Special Superintendent of Police a list showing the names and parentage of all the coolies in the batch, their native villages and thanas, and the gardens to which they will proceed.

The Special Superintendent of Police on receipt will send these lists by districts according to destination in Assam, and will send them to the respective Superintendents of Police concerned, who will similarly distribute the lists to the police stations concerned.

The officer-in-charge will issue a "B" Roll in respect of every one of the newcomers to his *elaka*. If on receipt of the roll after verification it is found that any coolie is a bad character, he will call for his history sheet from the man's native police station, and obtain the instructions of the Superintendent of Police as to whether the man should be placed under surveillance or not. The Superintendent of Police will also arrange to inform the Manager of the garden, and to ask that the police may be given facilities to see the man for the purpose of identification.

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Letter No. 116, dated Binnakandi, the 27th January 1931.

From --The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To--The SPECIAL SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, *in charge of* C. I. D., etc., Assam.

In reply to your letter No. 6481-84 C.I.D., dated the 20th November 1930, with copy of the proposed Rule regulating the verification of the antecedents of labour imported into Assam--I am directed to protest strongly against the proposal and to state that the views of the General Committee of this Branch of the

Association are entirely in agreement with those of the Tea Districts Labour Association, as expressed in the following note:-

“The Tea Districts Labour Association had protested strongly to the local police authorities against the introduction of this rule, and they had asked for their objections to the proposed new rule to be placed before the Inspector-General, with a view to the adoption in its stead of the simple method, suggested to the Madras Government in 1925, namely, the reporting to the police authorities in Assam, by the police in the recruiting districts, of the departure to a destination in Assam of any individual already under police surveillance. The Chairman of the Assam Labour Board was strongly against the proposal, and he had also suggested the alternative put forward by the Tea Districts Labour Association.”

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**Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.**

No. P.3414, dated Shillong, 16th June 1930.

From--The DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, Telegraphs, Shillong Division,

To--The SECRETARY, Planters Association, Silchar.

It is proposed to instal a telephone exchange in Silchar with a 50 line magneto switchboard.

In this connection I have the honour to enclose for your perusal a diagram of a scheme for installing in conjunction with the Silchar Exchange three small satellite automatic exchanges at Dalu, Udarband and Rosekandi showing the tea gardens within reach of each satellite. The figure against each Tea garden indicates the approximate rate chargeable per year for a connection with the nearest exchange. These rates are subject to a small modification when the scheme has materialised.

It is requested that you will very kindly let me have a list of which of these tea gardens will be willing to join the scheme. It is necessary that at least 7 connections be taken from each exchange to justify its erection. Therefore in the event of an insufficient number of subscribers being forthcoming to allow of the erection

of any one of these exchanges, I shall be grateful also if you will kindly let me know which of the following tea gardens would be willing to take connections to the Silchar exchange:-

Tea Garden.	Approx. distance.	Provisional rate.
Dudpatli ... ..	3 miles	Rs. 150/- per annum.
Kanaicuri ... ..	4 ..	„ 200/- „ „
Arkatipur ... ..	5 „	„ 250/- „ „
Gangur ... ..	5 „	„ 250/- „ „
Katal ... ..	5 „	„ 250/- „ „
Khoril ... ..	5 „	„ 250/- „ „

Any other ?

According to distances.

The four exchanges at Dalu, Udarband, Roskandi and Silchar would be maintained and worked by the Telegraph Department. The junction lines connecting the exchanges will be provided free of any extra charge for their use. Further, if the scheme is carried out I can apply to the Director-General for facilities if required for sending telegrams by Telephone, as was accorded in the Doom Dooma Tea Garden area.

Letter No. 88-G., dated Binnakandi, 13th August 1930.

From -The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To -The DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, Telegraphs, Shillong Division, Shillong.

Referring to your letter No. P. 344, dated the 6th July, I regret to say that practically no support is forthcoming from gardens within a radius of the proposed scheme. It was probably not recognised by the promoters of this scheme, that gardens under different Managing Agents in one district have very little, if any, business dealings with each other, and that a telephone connection could therefore only be a luxury for which shareholders could

hardly be expected to pay in the present hard times, when a great number of gardens in the Surma Valley are working at a loss. Telephones in the Tea Districts can only be looked on as a business proposition, where these connect up out-gardens of a large Company under the same management.

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**Proposed Board of Referees under the Income-Tax Act.**

No. 3409-R., dated Silchar, 7th November 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Districts,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 4619-20 F(a), dated the 29th October 1930, with enclosures, from the Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Finance Department on the subject of the formation of Board of Referees under the Income-Tax Act and to request that you will be so good as to suggest at a very early date the name of a member from your Association to serve on the Board of Referees.

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Letter No. 1619-20 F. a), dated Shillong, 29th October 1930.

From—The OFFG. SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Finance Department,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

In continuation and partial supersession of this office letter No. 4351-52-F(a), dated the 10th

1. Letter C. No. 395 (i) I. T.—25, dated the 7th October 1930, from the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenue).

2. Letter C. No. 395 I. T. —25, dated the 13th October 1930, and enclosure from the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenue).

October 1930, I am directed to forward copies of the correspondence noted in the margin, and to request that you will be so good as to nominate at a very early date one official (other than Judicial Officers) and five non-officials to serve on the Board of Referees. I am to add that in nominating non-officials the Surma Valley Branch of Indian Tea Association may be consulted.

Three Judicial Officers have already been nominated by this Government in consultation with the District Judges.

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*Copy of letter No. C. No. 395-I.T./25, dated the 10th October 1930, from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.*

*Board of Referees—Formation of—My letter C. No. 395-I.T./25, dated the 7th October 1930.*

In continuation of my letter quoted above, I am directed to enclose for such action as may be considered necessary an extract from a letter from the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, to the Secretary, Central Board of Revenue.

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*Extract from letter No. 437-A. C., dated the 3rd October 1930, from the Secretary, Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, to the Secretary, Central Board of Revenue.*

2. \* \* There are no constituent Chambers located in the major provinces of Assam \* \* \*. As regards panel for the major provinces of Assam \* \* I venture to suggest that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which represents tea producers in Assam and North East India \* \* \* might be approached with a view to names being submitted from the \* \* \* agency houses in Calcutta, \* \* \* .

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C No. 395-I.T./25, dated Simla, 7th October 1930.

(CENTRAL REVENUE.)

From—The DEPUTY SECRETARY, to the Government of India, Financial Department (Central Revenue),

To—The SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam, Finance Department, Shillong.

*Board of Referees—Formation of, My letter C. No. 395-I.T.-25, dated the 9th June 1930, and your letter No. 2617-F.(2), dated the 16th July 1930.*

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter quoted above, I am directed to state that it has now been noticed

that the number of three officers to serve on the Board of Referees whom you were asked to nominate in my letter referred to above, would not suffice in certain circumstances. The minimum number of officers required is 6, of whom not less than 3 should be officers. I am accordingly directed to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council a revised list of officers to serve on the Board may be furnished.

2. I am also directed to request that in place of 5 non-officials whom you were asked to nominate in my letter C. No. 395-I.T./25, dated the 16th September 1930, 12 non-officials may be nominated to serve on the Board. It is necessary to have a panel of at least 12 non-officials.

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No. 99-G., dated Binnakandi, 12th November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division, Silchar.

In reply to your letter No. 3409-R., dated the 9th instant suggesting this Branch of the Association should nominate some one to serve on the Board of Referees under the Income-Tax Act, before putting this up to the members of my General Committee, I should be grateful for further information as to the Constitution of this Board.

The points on which I am not clear are:—

- (1) Is this purely a Board confined to the province of Assam?
- (2) If this is the case, have any steps been taken by the Local Government to comply with the suggestion made by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, a copy of which you sent me.

Extract from letter No. 487-A.C., dated the 3rd October 1930, from the Secretary, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, to the Secretary, Central Board of Revenue as follows:—

“\* • I venture to suggest that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which represents tea producers



in Assam and North East India might be approached with a view to names being submitted from the \* \* Agency Houses in Calcutta."

- (3) In the event of no steps having been taken on the above line is it the intention of the Local Government that the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, should represent the proprietary interests of Tea Gardens on this Board of Referees or only the private tax payer?
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No. 3537-R., dated Binnakandi, 18th November 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter No. 99-G., dated the 12th November 1930, regarding the nomination of a member to serve on the Board of Referees. I have the honour to refer you to sections 23A and 33A of the Indian Income-Tax Act (Amendment) XXI of 1930, and to send you below my replies on the three points raised in your letter under reference.

Points (1) The proposed Board of Referees is confined to the Province of Assam; (2) I have no information but I am consulting Government and (3) I should say that the member nominated would be expected to represent all interests of industry both the proprietary interests and the private tax payers. A representative may be nominated on that understanding.

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No. 3746-R., dated Silchar, 9th December 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter No. 3537-R., dated the 18th November 1930, regarding the nomination of a member to serve on

the Board of Referees I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of Government letter No. 5056-F(a), dated the 3rd December 1930.

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Letter No. 5056-F(a), dated Shillong, 3rd December 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam,  
Finance Department (Miscellaneous Branch.)

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,  
Finance Department—Miscellaneous Branch.

I am directed to refer to your memo. No. 3538-R., dated the 18th November 1930, regarding the nomination of a member to serve on the Board of Referees, and to say with regard to point (2) that Government have not addressed and do not propose to address the Indian Tea Association at Calcutta but that it will be for the local Branches of the Association to consult the Calcutta Association, if they deem it necessary. As regards point (3), I am to explain that the Referee is not intended to represent any interest, but to be an entirely independent arbiter, who is chosen because of his business experience and as being, likely therefore to understand the issues. The report of the Select Committee dated the 26th February 1929, on the Legislative Assembly Bill No. 41 of 1927 *vide* page 22 of the *Gazette of India*, dated the 2nd March 1929, Part V) shows that this is so.

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Letter No. 60, dated Binnakandi, the 15th January 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea  
Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

With reference to your letter No. 3409-R., dated the 7th November 1930, and your subsequent reminder thereto No. 103 R., dated the 10th January 1931, regarding the formation of the Board of Referees under the Income-Tax Act—I am directed to inform you that this Branch of the Association have nominated Mr. G. E. Rayner, Deanston Tea Estate Kajuricherra P. O., Sylhet, as their representative on the Board of Referees.

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*Memorandum by the Officiating Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, No. 325-28-G., dated Silchar, the 21st/26th January 1931.*

The undermentioned documents are forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association, Binnakandi, with the request to favour the undersigned with the views of his Association.

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Documents forwarded :—

1. Copy of Government Memo. No. 77-M.V., dated the 12th January 1931, and enclosures.
  2. Copy of letter No. 1388-G., dated the 29th May 1930, from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.
  3. Copy of resolution No. 13 of the proceedings of an ordinary meeting of the Silchar Local Board held on 20th January 1930.
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**Proposal for introduction of "Compulsory third party Insurance."**

*Copy of letter No. 76-M.V., dated Shillong, 12th January 1931, from Mr. M. Little, I.S.E., offg. Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Public Works Department, to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division.*

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 4034-G., dated the 23rd October, 1930, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division with enclosures containing a proposal for the introduction of "third party insurance" in respect of public motor vehicle plying in this province and to request you to obtain the views of the Deputy Commissioners, Local and Municipal Boards and the Indian Tea Association in your division as to the advisability of introducing such an insurance in this province and to forward them for the consideration of Government together with your own opinion. In this connection a copy of letter No. O/20237-E., dated the 18th December 1930, from the Government of Bombay with enclosures is also appended.

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*Memorandum by the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Assam, No. 77-M. V., dated Shillong, the 12th January 1931.*

Copy, with a copy of letter No. O/20237-E., dated the 18th December 1930, from the Government of Bombay with enclosures is forwarded to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, with reference to his letter No. 4034-G., dated the 23rd October 1930, for obtaining opinion of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasia and Jaintia Hills, and as well as of the Indian Tea Association and the remaining Local and Municipal Boards in his division.

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*Copy of letter No. O-20237-E., dated the 18th December 1930, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Public Works Department, Motor Vehicles Branch.*

*Compulsory Third Party Insurance.*

With reference to your letter No. 26723-26-M.V., dated the 3rd December 1930, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the General Department, I am directed to state that "third party insurance" is enforceable at the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police in the case of a public motor vehicle in the districts in the Presidency proper. A copy of rule 46 bearing on the subject is enclosed for the information of the Government of Assam.

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*Enclosures:* Extract Rule 46 from the Rules regulating the use of Motor Vehicles let or plying for hire in the Public Places outside the City of Bombay.

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*A copy of Rule No. 46.*

The District Superintendent of Police may in his discretion refuse to license any motor vehicle until the owner has taken out an insurance policy to cover passengers' and third party risks. The amount of such policy shall not be less than Rs. 300, - per seat of the vehicle and not less than Rs. 5,000, - for any one vehicle provided that in the case of vehicles licensed to carry fewer than seven passengers the District Superintendent of Police may fix a smaller amount.

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*Copy of letter No. 1388-G., dated Silchar, the 29th May 1930, from G. D. Walker, Esq., M.B.E., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Silchar, to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.*

Your letter No. 835-G., dated the 25th February 1930, about the proposal to make a third party insurance a condition of the grant of licenses for motor vehicles.

As directed by you I consulted the Chairman of the Silchar Municipal Board and the Hailakandi Local Board and the Sub-divisional Officer, Hailakandi. The Chairman, Local Board and the Sub-divisional Officer, Hailakandi, favour the proposal; while the Chairman, Silchar Municipal Board stands against it. I submit a copy of letter No. 302 dated the 24th May 1930, from the Chairman of the Silchar Municipal Board. I am unable to accept the Chairman's statement that most of the taxiwallahs are poor men, carrying on their trade with difficulty. Taxis that are found unsafe after examination are not passed by the Inspector of Motor Vehicles.

As a taxi is regarded as indispensable, accidents are unavoidable. Some provision should, therefore, be made for the payment of compensation for injury or death of a person due to an accident caused by a motor vehicle. As an alternative to demanding a deposit of certain sum by taxi owners to provide for such compensation, the proposal of third party insurance commends itself to me.

It is for the very reason that taxi drivers are poor men that the need for the insurance arises, instead of being called on to pay a heavy damages in case of accidents, which they are not likely to be able to do, and the injured party therefore deprived of compensation, this insurance will be a small burden, and will secure the compensation for the party affected.

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Copy of resolution No. 13 of the proceedings of an ordinary meeting of the Silchar Local Board held on the 20th January 1930.

13. Resolved that Government be moved to make compulsory third party Insurance a condition of the grant of licenses for motor vehicles.

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*Letter No. 231, dated Binnakandi, the 27th February 1931, from the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.*

In reply to your Memo, No. 325-28-G., dated the 21st January 1931, forwarding for an expression of opinion, copies of correspondence on the above subject, I am directed to forward the following extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association, held in Silchar on the 25th February 1931:—

“Correspondence with reference to the proposal to introduce “Compulsory Third Party Insurance” in respect of public Motor Vehicles plying for hire in this Province, having been previously circulated and an expression of opinion asked for by the Commissioner of Surma Valley and Hill Division, it was agreed that the insertion of Rule No. 46 was both sound and necessary, and the Secretary was directed to reply that this Committee were in favour of the proposal.”

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#### **Delegates to the Round Table Conference.**

Dated Assam, 15th October 1930.

From—The MEMBERS of the Legislative Assembly and the Assam Legislative Council,

To—The PRIVATE SECRETARY to His Excellency the Viceroy.

We the members of the Legislative Assembly and the Assam Legislative Council, desire to bring to His Excellency The Viceroy's notice that Europeans in Assam and elsewhere in the mofussil in India are greatly disappointed that one of their community has not been selected as a delegate to the Round Table Conference to represent European mofussil interests.

The three European representatives that have been chosen have lived in large Industrial Cities in India under the shadow of the Armed forces of the Empire. We do not wish to imply any want of confidence in these representatives but their outlook is very different from the outlook of those of us whose lives are spent in

the mofussil where Government forces are not immediately available to enforce Law and Order, and where urban conditions are of a totally different nature to those existing in rural areas.

In the aggregate Europeans in the mofussil probably number as many as those who reside in large Cities and we confidently expected that His Excellency would have nominated Mr. W. L. Travers, the President of the European Association to represent the point of view of Europeans living in the mofussil, inasmuch as he has always resided in mofussil areas and has therefore a thorough knowledge of the conditions in which Europeans live in rural India. His name was included in the Joint panel submitted to His Excellency by the European Association and the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and, being the only member on that panel who had these important qualifications, the omission of his name from the list of delegates has caused great disappointment and apprehension that the interests above mentioned will not be adequately represented.

We feel that there is still time for His Excellency to reconsider the position and therefore earnestly appeal to His Excellency to add the name of Mr. W. L. Travers, to the list of delegates already appointed to the Round Table Conference.

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V. C. No. 520-C., dated 29th October 1930.

From—The PRIVATE SECRETARY to His Excellency the Viceroy,

To—T. A. CHALMERS, ESQ., C.S.I., M.L.A., Assam.

His Excellency desires me to acknowledge with many thanks, your letter of 15th October regarding the representation of Europeans at the Round Table Conference. In the light of your letter, His Excellency has again review all the considerations which led him to make his selection, for he appreciates the great importance which you and those who have joined with you in addressing His Excellency rightly attach to adequate representation of all the various European interests in the country.

On mature consideration however he feels that he has no alternative but to adhere to his original selection. Had he found it possible to meet your wishes he would have been only too glad to

do so, but you will realise that, even in a Conference of this size, it is impossible to include a representative of every individual interest and it is inevitable that some should be disappointed. His Excellency made this selection after the fullest consideration open to him of those who appeared best qualified to advise, and he is reluctant at this stage to ask the Secretary of State to approve further additions to the personnel already chosen. He will however draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the points you urge in your letter, and he trusts that you will feel able to enlist the interest of the three Selected delegates in any matters which you particularly wish to bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government and the Conference.

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**Proposed Leprosy Survey of the Tea Gardens in Assam.**

No. 1712-O., dated Calcutta, 19th November 1930.

From--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,  
Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Central Avenue,

To--The Leprosy Research Laboratory Calcutta School of  
Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 5th November on the above subject, handed to me by Dr. I Santra who has been furnished with maps of the Assam Tea Districts as desired.

2. The Committee have now had an opportunity of considering the suggestion put forward in the letter, namely that in the event of a high incidence of leprosy being disclosed by the preliminary survey to be carried out in the Assam and Sylhet Valleys, Assam tea interests should consider the question of financing two survey parties which would continue the work after Dr. Santra leaves for Burma. You explain that each party would consist of two doctors, one to work in the Sylhet District and the other in the Assam Valley; and that the expenses of each party would be approximately the same as in the case of Dr. Chatterjee's Dooars survey.

3. In thanking you for the suggestion, I am to say that the General Committee will be glad to consider it in consultation with the Assam and Surnia Valley Branch Associations immediately particulars are available of the results found by Dr. Santra and his party.



They think it would be advisable to await such particulars before placing the suggestion of a continuance of the survey work before members concerned.

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No. 1713-O., dated Calcutta, 19th November 1930.

Copy, together with a copy of Dr. Muir's letter to which the above is a reply, forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for information.

(Sd.) D. C. FAIRBAIRN,  
*for Secretary.*

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Dated Calcutta, 5th November 1930.

From—The Leprosy Research Laboratory Calcutta  
School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene,  
To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

Referring to the correspondence with the Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta regarding the proposed leprosy survey in the Tea Gardens of Assam, I am sending to you Dr. I. Santra who will, along with his four assistants, carry out the survey. In order to select the most suitable area for beginning the survey, we require a map of a sufficiently large scale and with the names of the Tea Gardens marked on it. I shall be much obliged if you will supply such a map to Dr. Santra.

It is proposed to begin the survey from the beginning of January 1931. The returns already submitted from the Tea Gardens in Assam show a very high incidence of leprosy which will probably prove to be much higher when system at survey is made by an expert like Dr. Santra.

We propose after marking the incidence of leprosy as given in the returns already received on the map, to select the area of apparently highest incidence and survey the tea gardens in that area. Dr. Santra and his party can be spared for four months to work in Assam, and it is probable that two months will be spent in the Sylhet valley and two months in the Assam Valley. After the Dr. Santra and his party will go on to Burma. But I suggest the

if a high incidence of leprosy is found in the Assam gardens, it would be well if the Tea Association could finance two survey parties to be carried on after Dr. Santra leaves Assam. Each party would consist of two doctors, one party to work in the Sylhet valley and the other in the Assam Valley; the expenses of each party would be about similar to that of Dr. Chatterjee and his assistant while conducted the leprosy survey in the Dooars. If this scheme is approved of, I should be prepared to draw up an estimate of the approximate cost upon being furnished by you with statistics giving the number of gardens and the approximate number of coolies in each.

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**Income-tax: Expenditure on replanting abandoned  
areas in tea gardens.**

No. 1604-O., dated Calcutta the 28th October 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch Indian Tea  
Association.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 147, dated 16th October and to thank you for the copies which accompanied it of the orders passed by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax Assam, in the appeal of the Doom-Dooma Tea Company Limited, against the assessment of income-tax of expenditure incurred on uprooting and replanting old areas of tea.

2. The meeting with Mr. Loftus Tottenham, Member of the Central Board of Revenue, took place as arranged on 24th September last; and I have pleasure in sending you for your information a note of the proceedings. The discussion was of an informal nature and the proceedings are not therefore being published. Reference is, however, being made in the proceedings of the next General Committee meeting to the instructions since issued by the Central Board of Revenue, to the effect that the Board has decided to leave the questions of whether expenditure incurred on replanting abandoned tea areas should be treated as a capital or revenue charge to be settled by agreement between the Income-Tax Department and the assessee in each case, with reference to the circumstances. I enclose a copy of these instructions, from which you

will note the Board's recommendation that ordinarily the classification of such expenditure as capital or revenue in the assessee's own account should be accepted by the Department.

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No. 1605-O.

Copy, together with copies of the enclosures, forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association, for information.

(Sd.) D. C. FAIRBRAIN,  
*for Secretary.*

CALCUTTA, 28th October 1930.

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Circular No. 32, dtd Simla, 7th October 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Central Board of Revenue,

To—The INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONER, of India.

*Indian Income-tax Act (XI-22) Section 10 (2) (ix) Capital expenditure—Tea gardens abandoned areas Replanting of Conference of Commissioners of Income-tax, September 1929 Agenda-Item No. 13.*

After discussing this matter with the the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, the Board has decided to leave the question whether expenditure incurred on replanting abandoned area in tea gardens should be treated as capital or revenue expenditure to be settled by agreement between the department and the assessee in each case with reference to circumstances. It appears that the amount of revenue at stake is unimportant, and therefore the board considers that ordinarily the classification of this expenditure as capital or revenue expenditure in the assessee's own accounts should be accepted by the department. Should the question assume unusual financial importance in any case, the Income-tax Officer concerned should take the orders of the Commissioner and the latter should, if necessary, consult the Board.

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**Employment of Sylhettis.**

No. 387, dated Dibrugarh, the 11th July 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

A member of this Association has requested my opinion on the legality of his employing Sylhettis brought by contractors to this Valley for the purpose of the cultivation of tea concerns.

I have advised him that such employment is not illegal but may be objected to by your Association.

Will you kindly forward me your Association's views on the subject?

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Dated Binnakandi, 15th July 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Employment of Sylhettis.*

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 11th instant on the above subject, copies of which I am circulating to members of this General Committee for expression of opinion at a Meeting to be held on the 6th August. I do not imagine that any serious objection can be raised to Sylhettis being employed in Assam, but before replying definitely, should like this opinion confirmed by Sylhet members of the General Committee of this Branch.

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No. 493-L., dated Binnakandi, 13th August 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Employment of Sylhetties.*

In continuation of correspondence on the above subject, terminating with my letter dated the 15th ultimo, which was

discussed at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 6th instant, I was directed to record the following:—

“Sylhet members agreed that the employment of Sylhetties in Assam was unlikely to affect them in any way, and appreciated the courtesy of the Assam Branch in bringing the matter to their notice. The Secretary was directed to obtain, if possible, from the Assam Branch, the usual rates paid for Hoeing and Building work.

I shall be grateful if you will obtain for me from the members of your association concerned the usual rates paid Sylhetties for Hoeing and Building work.

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**Proposed Abolition of Unified Stamps.**

No. 3629-R., dated Silchar, the 26th November 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Commissioner to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 4956-58-F.(a), dated the 30th November 1930, with enclosure from the Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Finance Department regarding abolition of unified stamps and proposal for separate stamps for postal and revenue purposes and to request that you will be so good as to forward the views of your Association in the matter as early as possible.

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Letter No. 4956-58-F.(a), dated Shillong, 20th November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam, Finance Department,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

I am directed to forward a copy of letter C. No. 15-Stamps/30, dated the 23rd October 1930, from the Government of India,

Finance Department (Central Revenues), and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with your opinion after consulting the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association and other public bodies and associations in your division on the proposal.

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*Copy of letter C. No. 15-Stamps/30, dated Simla, the 23rd October 1930, from the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenues), to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.*

*Unified stamps—abolition of --Separate stamps for postal and revenue purposes—Proposal for.*

I am directed to refer to Mr. Howard's letter No. 5041-Exc., dated the 11th September 1905 in which sanction was accorded to the introduction, with effect from the 1st October 1905, of unified stamps for postal and revenue purposes. The whole of the receipts realised from the sales of these stamps are credited to the Indian Postal and Telegraph Departments, but in accordance with the orders issued in Finance Department letter No. F./29-F., dated the 19th May 1925 as modified from time to time, assignments aggregating at present Rs. 47,95,000/- per annum are made to the various provincial Governments in respect of the receipts derived from the sale of such of those unified stamps as are used for revenue purposes. These assignments are based on estimated receipts only.

2. As the accounts of the Posts Telegraphs Departments are now maintained on a commercial basis and increasing importance is being attached to their accuracy it is considered advisable that the credits received by the Department on account of the receipts from the sale of stamps required for postal and telegraph purposes should if possible be based on actual facts, instead of on estimates as at present. The Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs has accordingly submitted a proposal that the separate stamps which were in use prior to the 1st October 1905, should be re-introduced, postage stamps being reserved entirely for postal and telegraph purposes. The proposed revenue stamps could be placed on sale not only in every treasury but also in every post office, and steps would be taken to ensure that the public would have as little difficulty in obtaining revenue stamps as in obtaining postage stamps.

3. I am accordingly to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor-in-Council the local government after consulting the Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies and associations in Assam will inform the Government of India whether they have any objection to the adoption of the proposal.

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Letter No. 61, dated Binnakandi, the 15th January 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

In reply to your letter No. 3629-R., dated the 26th November 1930, asking the views of this Branch of the Association regarding abolition of unified stamps and proposal for separate stamps for Postal and Revenue purposes—I am directed to say that my Committee are in favour of abolition of Unified Stamps on the grounds that Provincial Revenues are likely to benefit by the use of separate stamps for revenue purposes.

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#### **Levy of toll on Rangpur Bridge.**

Letter No. 63-G., dated Binnakandi, the 22nd May 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I am directed to call your attention to the following extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 7th instant.

“The Secretary was directed to address the Commissioner, on the subject of the imposition of a toll by the Local Board on the above bridge, which had previously been free before repairs were undertaken. While in agreement with the policy of toll bridges when these were over 300 feet in length as laid down by the Road Board—this Committee would point out that if the Local Board were to levy a toll on every small bridge they repaired or renewed movement of any motor vehicle along Government roads would soon become impossible on account of expense.”

My Committee feel that if Local Boards are allowed to establish a precedent of charging a heavy toll on minor bridges they have renewed or repaired, the cost of using motor vehicles will soon become prohibitive. In this case the main outlet to a district for shipment of tea and transport of stores to Silchar can only be used at a price which seems out of all proportion to the size of the bridge which had previously been free to the public for about fifteen years.

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No. 5506-C., dated Silchar, 11th August 1930.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Levy of toll on the Rongpur bridge.*

With reference to your letter No. 63-G., dated the 22nd May 1930, I have the honour to send a copy of Memo. No. 3854-G., dated the 24th July 1930, from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, and to say that it is regretted the Board is not in a position to give up the revenue obtained from the toll bar, as the reconstruction of the bridge costs Rs. 20,000/-.

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*Copy of letter No. 1455, dated Silchar, the 17th July 1930, from the Chairman, Silchar Local Board, to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.*

With reference to your Memo. No. 1903-G., dated the 16th June 1930, I have the honour to say that the Rongpur bridge was damaged and unsafe for traffic and so the bridge had to be closed and a ferry established with the sanction of Government in order to keep the communication open. The ferry at the place continued for about two years and afterwards it was decided by the Board to dismantle and reconstruct the bridge. But as the construction of the bridge involved a heavy amount it was not possible for the Board to allot so much money for this work. Consequently the Board took up the work suspending many of its important works and decided to levy tolls on it for recovery



of the cost. The proposal for reconstruction and levy of tolls was sanctioned by Government.

The bridge was accordingly dismantled and reconstructed by the Board at a cost of over Rs. 20,000/-.

No grant for the work was received from Government although the Board requested Government to take over the road for metal-ling and grant us the total amount spent for the work. Government, being unable to take over the road and the bridge, passed orders for realising tolls on the bridge for recovery of the cost of construction and maintenance. The former bridge was constructed entirely with the Government contribution which did not require to be recovered.

Clearly a bridge is a speedier and more convenient means of crossing than a ferry. The tolls levied are the same for the bridge as for a ferry.

If the Local Board were to remove the bridge and replace it by a ferry traffic would be impeded, but there could then be no possible objection to the levy of tolls. I think the Tea Association has no real grounds for complaint on that score. On the other hand I am of opinion that the alignment of the road in the Happy Valley, involving as it does two crossings of the Madura, is not the best possible. I am endeavouring to work out a scheme, involving some outlay on new roads and negotiations about taking over existing private roads, which may do away with the need for this bridge.

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Memo. No. 3854-G., dated Silchar, 24th July 1930.

Copy submitted to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division with reference to his Memo. No. 2388-G., dated 4th June 1930.

(Sd.) G. D. WALKER,  
*Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.*

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**The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.**

No. 1816-O., dated Calcutta, 10th December 1930.

From—The ASST. SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea  
Association.

It will be within the recollection of your Committee that, at a conference held in Calcutta on the 8th March 1930, with representatives of the upcountry Associations, some discussion took place as to whether these Labour Rules should be dispensed with or be retained in modified form, and the feeling of the conference was in favour of retaining the Rules.

2. I am now directed by the Committee to forward, for the information of your Committee, the accompanying 25 copies of a printed Committee paper dated 11th August 1930, with relative attachments setting out the various points to be considered in any amended rules which may be agreed upon. These papers were before the General Committee at their meeting on the 19th August 1930, when it was decided to refer this question to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Mr. K. B. Miller who submitted their report with a suggested amended agreement on 21st November, 1930. Under instructions from the General Committee I am sending to you the accompanying 25 printed copies of the Sub-Committee's report dated 21st November 1930, with the suggested revised agreement attached, and I shall be glad if you will kindly lay these papers before your Committee for their consideration and favour me with a note of their views thereon at your early convenience.

3. In the meantime I may mention that copies of the entire sets of papers accompanying this letter were forwarded to the Indian Tea Association (London) for consideration by the homeward sea mail of 4th December 1930.

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No. 262, dated Binnakandi, 5th March 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.*

Referring to your letter No. 1816, dated the 10th December 1930, and its enclosures, I am directed to say that these have now been thoroughly examined by a Sub-Committee of the General Committee of this Branch, who have expressed the following opinion, which has since been confirmed by a unanimous vote of the General Committee at their meeting held on the 25th February 1931:—

Papers considered:—

- (1) Letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.
- (2) Circular from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, dated the 11th August 1930, headed "The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement: Proposed Revision.
- (3) Minutes of a Meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to revise the Labour Rules Agreement held in Silchar on Wednesday, 28th August 1929.
- (4) Revised Draft Agreement suggested by the following Sub-Committee:—

T. C. Crawford, Esqr.  
A. S. Macalister, Esqr.  
K. B. Miller, Esqr.
- (5) Committee paper dated 11th August 1930, with columnar statement.

The above Committee having considered these papers more especially the Draft Rules No. 4, by the Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, record that they infinitely prefer the rules drafted by a Committee of this Branch of the Association

(No. 3), as being far simpler and more suitable for practical purposes under conditions in the Surma Valley. They recommend that in this draft Rule 2 should be amended so as to read "within the preceding three years" instead of "within the preceding twelve months." They would also add to this draft the following clause taken from the Calcutta draft No. 3:—

"The provisions of this clause shall not apply in cases of marriages between labourers from different gardens, it being expressly agreed that no restriction shall be imposed in such cases and no penalties enacted under this agreement, but the new employer shall refund *bona fide* advances of the labour transferred."

They suggest to the General Committee that they see no good reasons the rules as recommended by the previous Sub-Committee (No. 3), should not be introduced in the Surma Valley, leaving the Brahmaputra Valley where conditions differ to some extent to frame their own rules."

I am to add that this Branch considers the rules drafted by their Sub-Committee on the 28th August 1929, (No. 3 on the list), with additions as above, as more suitable in principle and practice for the Surma Valley than others suggested.

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No. 229-O., dated Calcutta, 16th February 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.*

With reference to the copies of the suggested revised agreement in the above connection which were forwarded to you with my letter No. 1816-O., dated the 10th December 1930, I am directed by the Committee to invite your attention to the suggestion contained in the accompanying copy of a letter dated the 5th February 1931, which has been received from the Agents of the Baracora (Sylhet) Tea Company Limited.

You will notice from the London Secretaries' advices which are contained in the Agent's letter that it is suggested that when coolies have been given permission by a local Magistrate to leave the garden which recruited them, the garden in this event should have no further claim on these coolies.

Perhaps you will kindly place this suggestion before your Committee for their consideration in connection with the revised agreement which is now having their attention.

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Dated Calcutta, 5th February 1931.

From—The AGENTS, The Baraooora (Sylhet) Tea Co. Ltd.,  
To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.*

In connection with the above question which was raised at the meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on 2nd December, we quote hereunder extracts of advices from the Secretaries of the Baraooora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited.

"We notice from pages 2 and 3 of the abstract of proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee held in Calcutta on 2nd December that discussion took place on the proposed revision of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement. We have also read the two new drafts for proposed rules, the one being Mr. T. A. Chalmer's draft and the other that drawn by the Shillong Conference in 1929. The Chairman is of the opinion that when coolies have been given leave by a local Magistrate to leave the garden which recruited them, the garden in this event should have no further claim on them. You will doubtless remember that this Company has had a case involving such an occurrence as mentioned, and as the Chairman's views coincide with those of our senior manager, we think such views might be brought to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations."

We shall be obliged if you will bring the above to the notice of those revising the labour rules and regulations.

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( 21 )

No. 263, dated Binnakandi, the 5th March 1931.

From--The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules Agreement:  
Proposed Revision.*

In reply to your letter No. 229-O., dated the 16th ultimo with enclosure from Messrs. James Finlay and Company, on the subject of inserting a clause in any revised Labour Rules to the effect that labourers given permission to leave a garden by a local Magistrate, should be exempt from any claim under the Labour Rules—I am directed to say that the General Committee of this Branch Strongly object to any suggestion to insert a clause of this sort in the Labour Rules, which they look on as a private agreement between employers of labour. They consider the principle is bad, that it would encourage coolies wishing to charge their employer to go into the Court, and that the fact that they have done so, should not absolve any Manager subsequently employing them from payment of a transfer fee.

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No. 512 O., dated Calcutta, the 23rd April 1931.

From--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To--The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.*

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 262 dated the 5th March 1931, in which you communicated to me the views of your General Committee on the Sub-Committee's report and suggested revised agreement attached, which were forwarded to you with my letter No. 1816-O., dated 10th December 1930.

2. When this matter was under discussion at the Calcutta Conference on the 23rd March 1931, Mr. Roffey intimated that there was little, if any, disagreement then between the Assam and Surma

Valley Branch Association Committees in regard to the Sub-Committee's draft agreement, and that he understood that your Committee were prepared to fall into line with the Assam Valley view that the compensation payable to the importing garden for the loss of labour should be (a) in the case of permanent labour, at the rate of Rs. 150/- per labourer and (b) in the case of short-term labour, the recruiting expenses therefor *pro rata*, together with the liability to defray repatriation expenses. Your Chairman indicated that there was still a small difference to be cleared up, and it was ultimately agreed that both Branch Associations should submit their views to the General Committee here on the return of the delegates to Assam.

3. I may mention that the Assam Branch Association's views have now been received, and I shall be glad if you will kindly inform me how matters stand in regard to your Committee's attitude in regard to these views.

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No. 465, dated Binnakandi, the 27th April 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

*The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Branch Labour Rules  
Agreement: Proposed Revision.*

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 512-O., dated the 23rd instant, in which you ask me how matters stand in regard to my Committee's attitude in regard to views expressed at a conference held in Calcutta on March 23rd. As the proceedings of this conference have not been before my Committee, I am unable to go beyond my letter of 5th March, in which it is stated the rules drafted by a Sub-Committee of this Branch on Wednesday, 28th August 1929, were definitely preferred to any the others suggested, with one or two modifications. I take it from what I have since heard at meetings and from what you write that the Assam Branch are also in favour of the general principles laid down in these rules with the exception, that in rules 2 and 3 the figure Rs. 150/- should be substituted for Rs. 100/-. Short time labour is not a serious consideration in this Valley, and I imagine this Branch will be prepared to accept any suggestions made by the Assam Branch. To

make the matter quite clear before putting it to my Committee, I shall be grateful if you will send me a copy of the Rules as revised by the Sub-Committee of the Surma Valley Branch on the 28th August 1929, together with the modifications suggested in my letter of the 5th March 1931, and any further alteration since suggested by the Assam Branch. Provided I am correct in assuming from your letter that the Assam Branch are prepared to accept the general principles of the revised Surma Valley Draft, I have no doubt my Committee will be prepared to meet them in the matter of what is commonly known as a transfer fee and other minor modifications, once they know exactly what they are. Provided the agreement is reached I take it the suggestion made will go to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta for final approval, and drafting.

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**Indian Income-Tax Act--Amendment.**

Letter No. 1685-28-F.(a), dated Shillong, the 5th May 1931.

From—The OFFG. SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,  
Finance Department Miscellaneous Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea  
Association.

I am directed to forward a copy of the papers noted in the

1. A Bill further to amend  
the Indian Income Tax Act,  
1922, for certain purposes  
with statement of objects and  
reasons.

2. Extracts from Legislative  
Assembly Debates on the Bill,  
dated the 27th March 1931,  
and dated the 28th March  
1931.

margin, which have been received from the Government of India and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with an expression of the opinion of your Association on the Bill on or before the 30th June 1931.

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Letter No. 511, dated Binnakandi, the 25th May 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea  
Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Finance  
Department, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 1685-88-F.(a), dated the  
5th May 1931, asking for an expression of opinion of this Branch



of the Association on the above Bill, I am directed to reply giving the considered views of my Committee as follows:—

The primary purpose of the Bill is stated to be—to remove an incentive towards the export of Capital from India to Foreign Countries.

My Committee understand that a large amount of Capital—something in the neighbourhood of 30 crores of Rupees—was sent out of India during the past year, and assume that this Bill is intended to check the flow of capital abroad.

The primary reasons for this “Flight of the Rupee” were two-fold. It was partly speculative, *i.e.*, capitalists, who envisaged a reduction in the Rupee Ration to 1s. 4d. or less, and sold Rupee at 1s. 6d. with the intention of buying them back at 1s. 4d. or less. The other reason was based on genuine anxiety about the future political situation of India and uncertainties regarding constitutional changes.

If the unsettled political situation continues and if there is still a feeling that the Rupee Ration cannot be maintained at 1s. 6d., no legislation of this nature will ever prevent Capital leaving the Country.

A third incentive for Capital going abroad was suggested by Sir Hugh Cooke (Bombay-European) during the debate in the Assembly in March last. He stated:—

“The passing of a Bill of this sort will make many people hesitate to send money abroad for foreign investment where they do it now with the deliberate object of keeping down their Income-Tax, preventing the amount, perhaps, being assessed on a higher grade etc.”

My Committee have no desire to suggest that this is not done but this is not by no means the sole reason for the investment of money abroad, and it must be borne in mind that a large portion of such capital is subject to tax in the country in which it is invested perhaps at a higher scale than would be paid in India.

Incidentally there is no reference in the Bill to the question of double Income Tax. This objection and others of similar

character will doubtless be raised when the Bill comes up for consideration.

I am directed, however, to draw attention to one important detail,—*viz.*, that which is embodied in Clause 4. Under this Clause while people Resident and Domiciled in India are to be taxed on income from their Foreign investments whether the income is remitted to India or not. Those who are Resident but *Not Domiciled* are only to be taxed on the portion of such income that is remitted to India. In the debates in the Assembly this has been described as racial discrimination. It is perfectly true that the incidence of the tax will fall less heavily on the European than on the Resident and Domiciled Indian but to describe it as racial discrimination overlooks the fact that a large number of subjects of Indian States are Resident and not Domiciled in British India. The Wealthy business community of Marwaries are largely subjects of Indian States and they, equally with Europeans, be exempt from taxation on income on foreign investments unless the income is remitted to British India.

My Committee have considered this point with great care and have failed to understand how this discrimination will be satisfactorily explained to Resident and Domiciled Indians. The argument that it follows the principle of taxation in Great Britain is most unconvincing, for the Government of India do not always follow the principle of taxation in Great Britain. To take one vital example, in Great Britain the first £135 (£225 if he is married) of a man's income is entirely exempt from taxation. In India if one's annual income is Rs. 2,000/- and upwards one is taxed on every anna of it. Our opinion is that this discrimination embodied in Clause 4 will have to be justified on very much stronger grounds.

My Committee take the view that the primary purpose of this Bill is to raise further revenue from Tax-Payers in British India. Coming as it does immediately on top of a substantial increase in Income-Tax and Supertax we consider that this is not an opportune moment to add to the difficulties of Income-Tax payers and we whole-heartedly oppose the Bill.

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**Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the Twelfth International Labour Conference.**

Letter No. 47-2556-61-G.J. Immgn., dated Shillong, 2nd March 1931.

From—The CHIEF SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam, General and Judicial Departments, Immigration Branch,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to forward a copy of letter No. L.-1769, dated the 21st November 1930, with enclosure, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, regarding the recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the Twelfth International Labour Conference, 1929, and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with your advice generally on the various points mentioned by the Government of India and particularly with reference to the tea industry controlled by your association.

2. I am to request that a reply to this letter may be sent so as to reach Government on or before the 1st April 1931.

3. No spare copies of the letter are available.

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Circulated to all members of the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for an early expression of opinion.

(Sd.)

for Secretary.

*Binnakandi, 14th March 1931.*

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No. L.-1769, dated Delhi, the 21st November 1930.

From—The SECRETARY, to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour,

To—All MAJOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS and the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

I am directed to forward a copy of the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted at the Twelfth

Session of the International Labour Conference held in 1929 and a copy of the Resolution adopted by both Houses of the Central Legislature regarding this Recommendation. In pursuance of the terms of the Resolution, the Government of India will be much obliged for <sup>the Local Government's</sup> <sub>your</sub> advice on the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation.

2. The first part Articles 1 to 5, recommends statistical studies into the causes of accidents, investigation into the physical physiological, and psychological factors governing accidents, scientific research into the best methods of vocational guidance and the selection and development of national statistics on uniform bases so as to allow of a comparative study by the I. L. O. of the statistics of different countries. Though the Factory Inspection Departments do useful work in finding out what safety devices should be employed to minimise the risk of accidents, the requirements of this part of the Recommendation presuppose a higher stage of industrial development than exists in India. In India the lack of organisation amongst the industrial workers, their illiteracy and the absence, except in a few centres, of a permanent industrial population depending entirely on work in factories, are factors which present serious difficulties in undertaking any useful systematic research on the lines indicated, particularly in Articles 2 and 3 of the Recommendation. I am to request that the question may be studied with a view to finding out what possibilities and limitations there are in giving effect to the provisions contained in this part of the Recommendation.

3. Part II of the Recommendation (Articles 6 to 14) deals with the various methods of co-operation, e.g., periodical conferences between the inspectorate and the representative organisations of employers and workers, the appointment of safety organisations in each factory or works appointed jointly by the employers and the workers, propaganda by means of lectures, publications, cinematograph films, etc., permanent safety exhibitions, encouragement of the employers to do all they can to instruct workers in accident prevention, and of workers' organisations to co-operate in this work, etc. Other provisions in this part of the Recommendation relate to the necessity of instruction in accident prevention in schools, the provision of first-aid appliances in undertakings and arrangements for medical attendance and ambulance services. In any scheme for the prevention of industrial accidents the co-operation of the factory

inspectorate, the workers and the employers is essential. In India considerable attention has been paid by individual employers and certain private organisations within recent year to the welfare of labour, and some of the measures recommended above have already been introduced in large-scale industrial establishments. There is, however, considerable scope for further advance, especially in the encouragement of the co-operation of the workers themselves. The Government of India will be glad to know what steps consider <sup>the local Government</sup> <sub>you</sub> feasible with a view to encourage the measures described above.

4. Part III (Articles 15 to 21) of the Recommendation lays down certain principles which are recommended to be incorporated in national laws and regulations with a view to ensure an adequate standard of safety. Some of the requirements of this part are already met by the existing provisions in the Indian Factories Act and the Indian Mines Act and the rules framed thereunder. No legal provision, however, exists to call upon the employer to instruct his workers as to the dangers of their occupation, as recommended by Article 16. The provision in the Articles 19, which requires that the law should make it the legal duty of the workers to comply with the safety regulations, has no corresponding provision in the Indian Factories Act, but the Metalliferous Mines Regulations and the Coal Mines Regulation issued under the Indian Mines Act impose certain definite duties on persons working in mines with a view to the prevention of accidents and these provisions are enforced by means of prosecutions before the criminal courts. I am to request that the question may be examined as to how far and on what lines it would be desirable and practicable to amend the Indian law with a view to bring it fully in line with the requirements of Part III of the Recommendation. It will be seen that the recommendation contained in Article 21 postulates a degree of organisation and education which Indian workers do not at present possess. Any attempt, therefore, to secure by statutory provision the collaboration of workers on the lines indicated in this Article would seem in the present circumstances premature, though it may be feasible to comply with parts of this Article by administrative action combined with voluntary co-operation in the part of the employers and the employees. I am to invite <sup>the views of the local Government</sup> <sub>your views</sub> on this point.

5. Part IV (Articles 22 and 23) requires that State members should endeavour to secure that accident insurance institutions take into account, in assessing premia, the safety measures taken by each firm and encourage such institutions in the work of accident prevention. This part of the Recommendation has little application to India on account of the limited number of insurance institutions in existence in this country. Such of the institutions as exist possibly do take steps to encourage safety measures and take them into account in assessing premia, but the Government of India have no definite information on the point.

6. For a proper examination of the question of giving effect to the Recommendation under consideration it would be necessary to scrutinise carefully each Article of the Recommendation with a view to determine how far the various recommendations are already met by the existing law in India, which of them can be given effect to by administrative orders and further legislation will be required if the Recommendation is to be put into effect as a whole. In framing <sup>their views the local Government</sup> ~~your views, you~~ will no doubt consider the desirability of consulting representative organisations of workers and employers and insurance societies, etc. I am to mention that the acceptance by a Member State of a Recommendation passed by the International Labour Conference does not commit her to all the terms of the Recommendation but a formal acceptance commits the State concerned to the adoption of the general principles contained in the Recommendation in drafting national legislation and in issuing administrative orders.

7. I am to ask that the reply to this letter may be forwarded so as to reach the Government of India by the 30th April 1931.

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*Recommendation concerning the prevention of Industrial Accidents,  
adopted by the Twelfth International Labour Conference, 1929.*

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing body of  
the international Labour Office, and having met in  
its Twelfth Session on 30th May 1929, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the prevention of industrial accidents, which is the first item on the Agenda of the Session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a recommendation,

adopts this twenty-first day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, the following Recommendation, to be submitted to the Members of the International Labour Organisation for consideration with a view to effect being given to it by national legislation or otherwise in accordance with the provisions of Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles and of the corresponding Parts of the other Treaties of Peace.

Whereas the protection of Workers against injury arising out of their employment is instanced by the Preamble to Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles and to the corresponding Parts of the other Treaties of Peace as one of the improvements in industrial conditions which are urgently required.

Whereas industrial accidents not only cause suffering and distress among workers and their families, but also represent an important material loss to society in general.

Whereas the International Labour Conference in 1923 adopted a Recommendation concerning the general principles for the organisation of systems of inspection, in which it is laid down *inter alia* that inspection, in order to become progressively more effective "should be increasingly directed towards securing the adoption of the most suitable safety methods for preventing accidents and diseases with a view to rendering work less dangerous, more healthy, and even less exhausting, by the intelligent understanding education and co-operation of all concerned."

Whereas it is desirable that these measures and methods which experience in the various countries has shown to be most effective in enabling the number of accidents to be reduced and their gravity mitigated should be put on record for the mutual advantage of the Members.

Whereas a Resolution was adopted at the 1928 Session of the International Labour Conference in which the Conference declared

its opinion that the time had come to attempt to reach a higher standard of safety by the development of new methods and that the greatest advance could be made on the lines of the Safety First Movement, although it could not supersede the action of the State in prescribing and enforcing regulations for the prevention of accidents.

Considering that it is of the highest importance that all persons or bodies, including employers, workers, employers' and workers' organisations, Governments and the general public, should use their best endeavours and every means in their power to help to prevent industrial accidents.

The General Conference recommends that each Member of the International Labour Organisation should take the following principles and rules into consideration for the prevention of accidents in industrial undertakings. The following in particular are considered as such:—

- (a) Mines, quarries, and other works for the extraction of minerals from the earth;
- (b) Industries in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, ornamented, finished, adopted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed; including ship-building and generation transformation and transmission of electricity or motive power of any kind;
- (c) Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, alteration or demolition of any building, railway, tramway, harbour, dock, pier, canal, inland waterway, road, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, sewer, drain, well, telegraphic or telephonic installation, electrical undertaking, gas work, water work or other work of construction, as well as the preparation for laying the foundations of any such work or structure;
- (d) Transport of passengers or goods by road, rail, sea or inland waterway, including the handling of goods at docks, quays, wharves or warehouses, but excluding transport by hand.



The Conference, considering further that the prevention of accidents is as necessary in agriculture as in industrial establishments, recommends that each Member of the International Labour Organisation should apply the Recommendation to agriculture, taking into account the special conditions of agricultural work.

I.

1. Whereas the foundations of the study of accident prevention are:—

- (a) enquiry into the causes and circumstances of accidents,
- (b) the study, by means of statistics of accidents in each industry as a whole, of the special dangers which exist in the several industries, the laws determining the incidence of accidents and, by comparison over a series of years, the effect of measures taken to avoid them.

The Conference recommends that each Member should take the necessary steps, by means of legislative or administrative action, effectively to ensure the collection and utilisation of the above information.

The Conference also recommends that methodical investigation should be carried out in each country by public services assisted, where it appears desirable, by institutions or committees set up by individual branches of industry.

The public services should have recourse to the collaboration of the industrial organisations of employers and workers and of the services responsible for the supervision of accident prevention, as well as where desirable, of technical associations and accident insurance institutions or companies.

It is also desirable that industrial associations of employers and workers should collaborate in the institutions for accident prevention in the individual branches of industry.

2. As experience and research have shown that the incidence and gravity of accidents do not depend merely upon the dangers inherent in the work or in the kind of equipment or the various

appliances in use, but also on physical, physiological and psychological factors, the Conference recommends that in addition to the investigations mentioned in paragraph 1 in connection with material factors, these other factors should also be investigated.

3. Since the suitability of the worker for his work and the interests which he takes in his work are factors of primary importance for the promotion of safety, it is important that the Members should encourage scientific research into the best methods of vocational guidance and selection and their practical application.

4. Since it is important for the furtherance of accident prevention that the results of the investigations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 should be to enable its work in connection with accident prevention to be extended, be made known as widely as possible, and since it is also desirable that the International Labour Office should be in possession of the information necessary Conference recommended that the more important results of the investigations should be communicated to the International Labour Office for use in its work and publications.

It is also desirable that there should be international consultation and exchange of results between the research institutions or organisations in the several industrial countries.

5. The Members should establish central departments to collect and collate statistics relating to industrial accidents and should communicate to the International Labour Office all available statistics on industrial accidents in their respective countries. They should also, with a view to the subsequent preparation of a Draft Convention, keep in touch with the International Labour Office in framing and developing their industrial accident statistics, with a view to arriving at uniform bases which would as far as possible allow of a comparative study of the statistics of the different countries.

## II

6. In view of the satisfactory results which experience in different countries has shown to follow from co-operation between all parties interested in the prevention of industrial accidents, particularly between employers and workers, it is important that the Members should do all in their power to, develop and encourage

such co-operation, as recommended in the Recommendation on systems of inspection adopted in 1923.

7. It is recommended that in every industry or branch of industry, so far as circumstances require, periodical conferences should be held between the State inspection service, or other competent bodies and the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, (a) to consider and review the position in the industry as regards the incidence and gravity of accidents, the working and effectiveness of the measures laid down by law, or agreed upon between the State or other competent bodies and representatives of the industry, or tried by individual employers, and (b) to discuss proposals for further improvement.

8. It is further recommended that the Members should actively and continuously encourage the adoption of measures for the promotion of safety in particular (a) the establishment in the works of safety organisation which should include arrangements for a works investigation of every accident occurring in the works, and the consideration of the methods to be adopted for preventing a recurrence; the systematic supervision of the works, machinery and plant for the purpose of ensuring safety, and in particular of seeing that all safeguards and other safety appliances are maintained in proper order and position; the explanation to new, and especially young, workers of the possible dangers of the work or the machinery or plant connected with their work; the organisation of first aid and transport for injured workers; and the encouragement of suggestions from the persons employed for rendering work safer; (b) co-operation in the promotion of safety between the management and the workers in individual works, and of employers' and workers' organisations in the industry with each other and with the State and with other appropriate bodies by such methods and arrangements as may appear best adapted to the national conditions and aptitudes. The following methods are suggested as examples for consideration by those concerned; appointment of a safety supervisor for the works, establishment of works safety committees.

9. It is recommended that the Members should do all in their power to awaken and maintain the interest of the workers in the prevention of accidents and ensure their co-operation by means of lectures, publications, cinematograph films, visits to industrial

establishments, and by such other means as they may find most appropriate.

10. It is recommended that the State should establish or promote the establishment of permanent safety exhibition where the best appliances, arrangements and methods for preventing accidents and promoting safety can be seen (and in the case of machinery, seen in action) and advice and information given to employers, works officials, workers, students in the engineering and technical schools, and others.

11. In view of the fact that the workers, by their conduct in the factory, can and should contribute to a large extent to the success of protective measures, the State should use its influence to secure 'a) that employers should do all in their power to improve the education of their workers in regard to the prevention of accidents, and 'b) that the workers' organisations should by using their influence with their members co-operate in this work.

12. The Conference recommends that, in addition to measures taken in pursuance of the preceding paragraphs, the State should arrange for monographs on accident causation and prevention in particular industries or branches of industry or particular processes to be prepared by the State inspection service or other competent authorities, embodying the experience obtained as to the best measures for preventing accidents in the industry or process, and to be published by the State for the information of employers, works officials and workers in the industry and of employers, and workers' organisations.

13. In view of the importance of the work of education referred to in the preceding paragraph, and as a foundation for such education, the Conference recommends that the Members should arrange for the inclusion in the curricula of the elementary schools of lessons designed to inculcate habits of carefulness, and in the curricula of continuation schools lessons in accident prevention and first aid. Instruction in the prevention of industrial accidents should be given in vocational schools of all grades, where the importance of the subject both from the economic and moral standpoints should be impressed upon the pupils.

14. In view of the great value of immediate first-aid treatment in lessening the gravity of the consequences of accidents, measures

should be taken to ensure that the necessary material for first-aid should be kept ready for use in all undertakings and that first aid by properly trained persons should be given. It is also desirable that arrangements should be made to ensure that in case of serious accidents the services of a doctor are available as soon as possible. Arrangements should also be made for providing ambulance services, for the rapid transport of injured persons to hospital or to their homes.

Special attention should also be paid to the theoretical and practical training of doctors in the treatment of injuries due to accidents.

### III

15. As any effective system of accident prevention should rest on a basis of statutory requirements the Conference recommends that each Member should prescribe by law the measure required to ensure an adequate standard of safety.

16. It should be provided by law that it is the duty of the employer to equip and manage his undertaking in such a way that the workers are adequately protected, regard being had to the nature of the undertaking and the state of technical progress, as well as to see that the workers in his employment are instructed as to the dangers, if any, of their occupation and in the measures to be observed by them in order to avoid accidents.

17. It is in general desirable that plans for the construction or substantial alteration of industrial establishments should be submitted in the due time to the competent authority, in order that it may be ascertained whether the plans are such as to satisfy the statutory requirements referred to above. The plans should be examined as rapidly as possible in order not to delay the execution of the work.

18. So far as the administrative and legal systems of each country allow, officials of the inspection service or other body responsible for supervising the enforcement of the statutory requirements for the protection of workers against accidents should be empowered to give orders in particular cases to the employer as to the steps to be taken by him to fulfil his obligations, subject to a right of appeal to a higher administrative authority or to arbitration.

In case of imminent danger the supervising authority should be empowered to require immediate compliance with the orders, notwithstanding the right of appeal.

19. In view of the importance of the conduct of the worker in connection with accident prevention, the law should provide that it is the duty of the worker to comply with the statutory requirements on accident prevention and particularly to refrain from removing safety devices without permission and to use them properly.

20. It is recommended that before administrative orders or regulations for the prevention of accidents in any industry are finally issued by the competent authority, opportunity should be given to the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned to submit their views for the consideration of the competent authority.

21. Statutory or administrative provision should be made enabling the workers to collaborate in securing the observance of the safety regulations by the methods best suited to each country: for example, the appointment of qualified workers to positions in the official inspection service; regulations authorising the workers to call for a visit from an official of the inspection service or other competent body when they consider such a course desirable, or requiring the employer to give workers or their representatives an opportunity of seeing the inspector when he is visiting the undertaking; inclusion of workers' representatives in safety committees for securing the enforcement of the regulations and establishing the causes of accidents.

#### IV.

22. The Conference recommends that the State should endeavour to secure that accident insurance institutions or companies take into account, in assessing the premium for an undertaking, the measures taken therein for the protection of the workers, in order to encourage the development of safety measures by employers.

23. The State should use its influence with accident insurance institutions and companies to co-operate in the work of accident prevention by such means as the following: communication of information on causes and consequences of accidents to the inspection service or other supervising authorities concerned; co-operation in the

institutions and committees referred to in paragraph 1 and in the Safety First Movement in general; advances to employers for the adoption or improvement of safety appliances; the award of prizes to workmen, engineers and others who, by their inventions or ideas, contribute substantially to the avoidance of accidents; propaganda among employers and the public; advice on safety measures, contributions to safety museums and institutions for instruction in accident prevention.

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*Resolution adopted by the Council of State on 10th March 1930,  
and by the Legislative Assembly on 7th July 1930.*

That this <sup>Council</sup>~~Assembly~~, having considered the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents and the Recommendation concerning responsibility for the protection of power-driven machinery adopted at the Twelfth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he should examine the possibility of giving effect to the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents and that the results of this examination should be placed before this <sup>Council</sup>~~Assembly~~ within eighteen months from this date.

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### **Prevention of Industrial Accidents.**

Dated Binnakandi, the 31st March 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

In reply to your letter No. Immgn.—47-2556-61-G.J., dated the 2nd instant with copy of letter No. L.-1769, dated the 21st November 1930, with enclosures from the Government of India, regarding the prevention of Industrial Accidents, I am directed to say that my Branch of the Association consider that the small number of tea garden employees engaged in what is wrongly termed an industrial occupation are already adequately protected under the existing Factory Act. .

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**Bridging the Manu River at Nayabazar.**

Letter No. 921-L.S.G., dated Shillong, the 28th May 1930.

From—The OFFG. SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam  
in the Transferred Department,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I am directed to refer to this Department letter No. 435-L.S.G., dated the 22nd March 1930. The desirability of bridging the Manu river at Nayabazar from the Tea Rates Road Fund was considered by the Tea Rates Road Board at its meeting on the 18th March, and it was decided to make another attempt to effect an arrangement. The principal difficulty felt by the South Sylhet Local Board appears to be that of financing the repairs of the bridge when constructed. The Tea Rates Road Board accordingly suggested that the cost of repairs might be recouped by the Board by means of tolls, the toll being fixed at rates which would cover the cost of annual repairs and period is overhaul. The levy of the toll suggested by the Tea Rates Road Board would of course not be legal under section 42 of the Local Self Government Act unless the Local Board had either constructed the bridge at its own expense or had contributed to the cost of construction, or had purchased the bridges. The Government are advised however that this difficulty could be get over by the Local Board purchasing the bridge from the Tea Rates Road Board at a nominal price, say Rs. 100/-, or making a nominal contribution of a similar amount towards the cost of construction. The Local Board could in that case levy tolls with the sanction of Government provided that—

- (1) the price of contribution thus paid,
- (2) the capitalised value of any receipts now accruing to the Local Board from a ferry which the bridge would replace, and
- (3) the capitalised value of the cost of maintenance were not less than Rs. 5,000/-.

There appears to be no doubt that the conditions of the proviso would be realised in the case of the Nayabazar crossing. It should be noted that although the capitalised value of the ferry receipts can be taken into account for the purposes of the proviso to section 42,



the offer of the Tea Rates Road Board contemplates that only the cost of maintenance shall be actually recouped by means of toll. In view of the substantial gain to communications that would be obtained by the construction of this bridge I am now to ask that the Local Board may be requested to report whether it would be willing to co-operate with the Tea Rates Road Board on the terms suggested. If so, the details of the scheme will be worked out, for which purpose Government would be glad to know the receipts and expenditure on the ferry, if any, during the past ten years.

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*Copy of Resolution No. 7, passed at a meeting of the South Sylhet Local Board held on 15th July 1930.*

Considered Deputy Commissioner's Memo. No. 8077-J., dated 18th June 1930, regarding bridging the Manu River at Nayabazar and resolved that the Government proposal be accepted to purchase the bridge after its construction at a cost of Rs. 100/- one hundred only.

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**Tea Rates Road Board Fund.**

No. 112, dated Binnakandi, 27th January 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Tea Rates Road Board Fund, Shillong.

Presuming that there will be a meeting of the above Board during the coming session of the Assam Legislative Council,—I shall be obliged if you will put the following note on the agenda for discussion as indicating the views of the Association I represent. In the meanwhile, perhaps it will be possible to obtain a statement from the Public Works Department as to the position with regard to the Monu Bridge and a recommendation as to the best alignment for connecting the road systems of Cachar and Sylhet between Monacherra and the Chargola Valley, with a rough estimate of the cost; I understand surveys of this connection have already been made.

*Note:—*\*It was agreed by a majority that on completion of the work now in hand—the Tea Rates Road Board Fund be asked

to devote the money collected in both the districts of Cachar and Sylhet, to a road to connect the Cachar and Sylhet Road Systems from Monacherra to the Chargola Valley. The question of tolls on bridges built from this fund next came up for discussion, and though members generally held that the principle by which a bridge built from this fund should be a toll bridge was a bad one—it was recognised that as in the case of the Monu Bridge, no local authority would undertake the upkeep of these bridges unless entitled to charge a toll for this purpose. The member promised to get this toll limited to cover the actual cost of the annual upkeep, if possible;—it being felt that this would not fall heavily on neighbouring gardens who are getting a bridge in place of a toll ferry."

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Proceedings of a meeting of the Tea Rates Road Board held at 10 A.M. on Monday the 16th March 1931:—

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PRESENT:

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sayid Sir Muhamad Saadulla,  
Kt., *Chairman*.

Mr. C. S. Witherington.

„ W. E. D. Cooper.

„ E. S. Roffey.

„ M. Little, *Chief Engineer*.

„ A. V. Jones.

Members.

Secretary.

1. The Chairman laid on the table a note explaining the financial position of the Fund.

2. The progress report of works was then presented. In reply to an enquiry of Mr. Roffey, the Chief Engineer explained the present position as regards the soling and metalling of the Jorhat-Mariani Road. Mr. Roffey then suggested that plans and estimates be now prepared for the project for the metalling of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the Assam Trunk Road which was agreed to at the last meeting of the Board, so that work could be started when the Jorhat-Mariani Road was completed. The Board agreed.

3. The Board next considered a letter from the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association regarding the best

alignment for connecting the road systems of Cachar and Sylhet between Monacherra and the Chargola Valley. The Chief Engineer explained the different routes examined and placed on the table a report with map from the Executive Engineer. Cachar, who had recently toured over the whole of the country affected and recommended a route from Monacherra to Anipur Ghat *via*, Kalinagar. Mr. Little added that in his opinion this was the best route, but before coming to a final decision he suggested that a copy of the report and map be sent to the Commissioner and the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, for the purpose of ascertaining local opinion. The Committee approved the suggestion.

4. The last item considered by the Board was an application for remuneration from the Assistant in the Public Works Secretariat who deals with Tea Rates Road Fund projects. Mr. Little recommended that he should receive the same allowance and from the same date as was given to the assistant in the Finance Department, *viz.*, Rs. 5/- per Mensem from 1st April 1930. The Board approved the proposal.

(Sd.) S. M. SAADULLA.

(Sd.) C. H. WITHERINGTON.

(Sd.) W. E. D. COOPER.

(Sd.) M. LITTLE.

(Sd.) E. STUART ROFFEY.

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*Copy of letter No. 2383, dated Cachar, the 6th March 1931, from the Executive Engineer, Cachar Division, to the Chief Engineer, Assam, Shillong.*

With reference to your No. 21158-R.B., dated the 20th September 1930, I have the honour to submit herewith the following preliminary report on the proposed route A. B. E., *viz.*, Monacherra to Dullavcherra route with my opinion on an alternative to the same.

*Monacherra Dullavcherra Route.*—From Dullavcherra to Monacherra the distance about 14 miles. Of these 5 miles from Kalinagar to Monacherra have been surveyed and estimated for it

connection with the Monacherra Ratabari Route and the cost comes to roughly Rs. 1,60,000/- leaving metalling out. The length of the remaining portion, *viz.*, Dullavcherra to Kalinagar is approximately nine miles.

*First Mile.*—The road starts from a point about 2000' south of the Screw pile bridge over Singla river near inspection Bungalow at Dullavcherra. Throughout this mile, the road is a garden road running North eastward for a distance of about 1500' up to the front of Manager's Bungalow and then turns north passing through the Factory and leaf house of the garden, along the bank of Singla river. The road is too near the river and passing as it does through the garden and Factory it will have to be diverted further east along an abandoned road.

Bridging required in this mile will be :—

- (1) 3 spans of 25' to replace 66' timber bridge over Paglacherra.
- (2) 3 spans of 25' to replace 70' timber bridge over Dullavcherra.
- (3) 25' screw pile to replace existing 20' bridge over a nalla.

*Second Mile.*—This throughout is a tea garden road along the bank of Singla and is liable to erosion up to Mukamcherra Tea Estate Manager's Bungalow. This will need diverting further east which can be done, to a certain extent but the road will have to join the existing one near the Manager's Bungalow as no diversion here is feasible.

Bridging required in this mile will be :—

- (1) 25' screw pile to replace a 15' timber bridge.
- (2) 25' screw pile to replace a 22' timber bridge.
- (3) 60' iron bridge over Rupacherra may remain as it is.

*Third Mile.*—Fairly decent garden road.

Bridging required—nil.

*Fourth Mile.*—Fairly decent garden road.

Bridging required :—

- (1) 3' dia. double line Armco to replace bamboo bridge.
- (2) 20' bridge to replace bamboo bridge.
- (3) 3' dia. Armco replace bamboo bridge.
- (4) 3' dia. Armco replace bamboo bridge.

*Fifth Mile.*—Up to chainage 2,200, the alignment goes along the garden road but from here it has to turn north east. The garden road which goes further on increases the length, passes through tea and will be very expensive to improve. Leaving the garden road at chainage 5 miles 2,200, the alignment will run through low tillahs, paddy fields and then over a road past the coolie lines of Chunapatty Tea Garden. From there it goes along the Western boundary of the garden to avoid going through tea.

Bridging in this mile :—

- (1) 3' dia. double Armco Culvert to replace 15' bamboo bridge.
- (2) 20' screw pile or pucca abutment bridge to replace bridge.
- (3) 3 Armcos for drainage.

*Sixth and Seventh Miles.*—The alignment passes through low tillahs and intervening valleys covered with jungles adjacent to Chunapatty tea plantation.

Bridges :—

- (1) 6th mile—One screw pile 2 spans 25' and 4 Nos. 3' dia. Armcos.
- (2) 7th mile—One screw pile 2 spans 25' one of 20' and 6 Nos. 3' dia. Armcos.

*Eighth and Ninth Mile.*—The alignment passes through low tillahs and intervening valleys covered with jungles adjacent to tea plantation of the Kalinagar Tea Estate along the North-west boundary of the garden.

Bridging in these miles will approximate to about 80' Rft. in 8th mile and 55' in 9th mile with 6 Nos. 3' dia. Armcos in each mile.

The proposed alignment is shown as A B D E in the accompanying sketch.

It will be seen from the above that in adopting this route miles 3rd, 4th and part of 5th alone can be utilised from the existing garden road and the balance will be practically new road. The portion of garden road utilised will need widening and improving.

An alternative to the above, which in my opinion is a far better alignment is shown in the sketch as A B D F 6 miles 1278' in length which length is liable to reduction, as the rough measurements have been taken avoiding thick jungle and other obstructions.

Starting from Kalinagar from the point B this alignment follows the same route as the previous one for about a mile and a half, from Kalinagar, where it leaves the previous alignment and emerges from the tillahs along a short cut path to Anipur ghat.

*1st mile from Kalinagar*—Same as 9th mile of previous alignment.

*2nd mile from Kalinagar*—Same as 8th mile for about half a mile where it leaves off and goes along a path to Anipur.

Bridging about the same as in 8th and 9th mile of first alignment.

*3rd mile*—Passes through valleys and foot of tillahs up to 4615' on an orange tillah belonging to Kumar Gopika Raman Roy, and then over plain fields. Cutting through a saddle in this mile will be necessary.

*Bridging*—3 Nos. 25' screw pile.  
7 Nos. 3' Armcos.

*4th mile*—Passes through plains, paddy fields, crossing river Chunati at 1718' with a 2,25' screw pile bridge. About 4 Armcos will be needed.

*5th mile*—Plain paddy land requiring 75 Rft. bridging and 4 Nos. 3' dia. Armcos.

*6th mile*—Passes over plain paddy land crossing river Singla at 1500' about 500' upstream of Anipur ghat to avoid villages and Railway goods line.

*Bridging*—1 Screw pile bridge 30'.  
1' Screw pile bridge 30'.  
2 Nos. 3' dia. Armcos.  
Bridge over Singla about 150'.

*7th mile*—(1278'Rft.) This portion passes through paddy fields to the south of Anipur trolley line and will need a two span 25' screw pile bridge. At 1278' it meets with the Karimganj Dullavcherra road about 5 miles above Dullavcherra.

The alignment from Kalinagar to the orange tillah in 3rd mile passes over land above normal flood level and from there to Singla river it passes over fairly high paddy fields where water is about a foot in normal floods. From Singla crossing to Karimganj Dullavcherra road the bank will be about 4' on the average.

Thus the three lines, *viz.*, A B G (Monacherra Ratabari, A B F (Monacherra Anipur) and A B E (Monacherra Dullavcherra) the middle line A B F avoids the very low land crossed by A B G and heavy bridging needed thereon, and at the same time shortens the length of detour involved in the line A B E by about 8 miles. Crossing of river Singla is necessary in both the 1st two lines but is not needed in the last line as there is already a bridge on Local Board Road near Dullavcherra but as a set-off against this the bridges needed in the 1st mile of this road, *viz.*, 75' over Dullavcherra and 75' over Paglacherra will not be needed in A B D F. This 150' will cover the bridge over Singla. Thus the greatest advantage lies with the route A B D F.

Orders are therefore solicited whether both A B D E and A B D F should be surveyed and estimated for.

As regards Dullavcherra Katlicherra route it is still being surveyed as very steep hills are being met with and the route is likely to be very expensive and involves a long detour.

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NOTE ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TEA RATES  
ROAD FUND.

The receipts and expenditure of the Tea Rates Road Fund from the date of its inception to the 30th June 1930, are given below :—

RECEIPTS.

*Assam Valley.*

			Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Goalpara	...	746	10	0
2.	Kamrup	...	4,605	4	0
3.	Darrang	...	66,631	11	0
4.	Nowgong	...	14,752	1	0
5.	Sibsagar	...	1,00,591	1	0
6.	Lakhimpur	...	1,04,631	10	2
Total Assam Valley			2,91,956	5	2

*Surma Valley.*

			Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Sylhet	...	1,03,488	13	11
2.	Cachar	...	41,820	4	0
Total Surma Valley			1,45,309	1	11
TOTAL ASSAM			4,37,267	7	1



## EXPENDITURE.

*Assam Valley.*

			Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Goalpara	...	3	1	7 (a)
2.	Kamrup	...	60	0	0 (a)
3.	Darrang	...	415	11	0 (a)
4.	Nowgong	...	158	11	0 (a)
5.	Sibsagar	...	2,23,382	9	0 (b)
6.	Lakhimpur	...	472	15	0 (a)
Total Assam Valley			2,24,502	15	7

*Surma Valley.*

			Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Sylhet	...	492	14	6 (c)
2.	Cachar	...	21,244	12	0 (d)
Total Surma Valley			24,707	10	6
TOTAL ASSAM			2,49,210	10	1

2. The estimated cost of constructing an asphaltic concrete road between Jorhat and Moriani was Rs. 4,66,111-0-0. About 6 miles of the water bound macadam has been done which is the foundation for the asphalt surface to be laid on it. The original specifications with Mr. Mackenzie had, however, proved inadequate and revised specifications will have to be adopted as recommended by the Chief Engineer subject to the members of the Planting community in the Jorhat district endorsing the proposal. An expenditure of Rs. 2,23,143-0-0 had been incurred up to date on this work, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 2,42,968-0-0 for future payments.

(a) Refunds. (b) Rs. 239-3-0 represents refunds and the balance of Rs. 2,23,143-6-0 the cost of constructing an asphaltic concrete road between Jorhat and Moriani. (c) Rs. 20 represents survey fees and Rs. 442-14-6 the cost of trial borings at the site of the Manu bridge. (d) Rs. 718-12-0 represents refunds and the balance of Rs. 23,526, the cost of metalling a portion of the Sonairkoun-Gagliacherra Road.

3. The cost of metalling a portion of the Somairkona Gaglacherra Road was Rs. 23,526-0-0. The final payment was made in June last.

4. The construction of a bridge over the Manu river in South Sylhet, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,09,740-0-0 has not been taken up as yet. The South Sylhet Local Board was asked by the L. S. G. Department, on the 28th May 1930, whether it would purchase the bridge, when constructed, at a nominal price say Rs. 100/-, or make a nominal contribution of a similar amount towards the cost of construction in order to enable the Board to levy tolls. The Board has not yet sent any reply and the L. S. G. Department is sending a reminder.

5. We cannot say how far the original estimate of Rs. 4,60,111-0-0 for the construction of the Jorhat-Moriani Road will be affected by the revised specifications to be submitted by Mr. Mackenzie and whether the Manu bridge will be constructed during this year or not. Assuming, however, that both the works, will be done during this year, the financial position of the Tea Rates Road Fund in both the Valleys will be as follows:—

(Figures given in thousands of rupees.)

YEAR.	ASSAM VALLEY.		Balance.	SIPMA VALLEY.		Balance.
	Receipts.	Payments.		Receipts.	Payments.	
1927-28 ...	68	...	68	5	...	5
1928-29 ...	96	50 (d)	114	48	...	53
1929-30 ...	101	174 (d)	41	54	8 (d)	99
1930-31 ...	{ 101 100 (e) }	242 (e)	...	54	{ 17 (d) 109 (f) }	27
1931-32 ...	101	101 (b)	...	54	...	81
1932-33 ...	101	5 (e)	96	54	...	135
1933-34 ...	101	...	197	54	...	189

(a) Loan from Government.

(b) Repayment of loan taken from Government with interest in part. ...

(c) Interest in full on the loan taken from Government.

(d) Actuals.

(e) For construction of Jorhat-Moriani Road.

(f) For construction of the Manu bridge.

6. It will be seen from the above figures that if full payment for the works mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 above is to be made during the current financial year, the loan of Rs. 1,00,000, for which provision has already been made in the current year's budget, will have to be taken. We doubt however if P. W. D. can spend the whole amount of Rs. 2,42,968 (Jorhat-Moriani Road) and Rs. 1,09,740 (Manu Bridge) during the current financial year and whether it will be necessary at all to take any loan from Government.

*Progress Report on Tea Routes Road Fund projects to end of  
August 1930.*

Name of work	Metalling a portion of Somairkona Goglacherra road.	
	Rs.	
Amount of sanctioned estimate	...	23,502
Expenditure to 31st March, 1930	...	5,322
Allotment for the current year	...	16,903
Expenditure during the current year to end of July, 1930	...	1,104 (a)

*Remarks and brief notes as to the state of construction reached.*

Length of road to be metalled		...	10 furlongs.
(1)	Armco culvert and extension of E. W. pipe	...	Completed.
(2)	Earth work	...	Completed.
(3)	Collection of metal	...	16,150 c. ft. against estimated quantity of 33,900 ft.
(4)	Collection of soling stones	...	18,725 c. ft. against estimated quantity of 22,600 ft.
(5)	Soling stone laid	...	7 furlongs.
(6)	3" metal spread and consolidated 6".		

General progress :—Work about half completed.

(a) Excluding the Department charges.

*Assam Valley—Progress Report.*

Name of work.		Widening and constructing an asphaltic concrete road between Jorhat and Moriani.	
		Rs.	
Amount sanctioned	...	...	4,66,111
Expenditure to 31st March, 1930	...	...	2,23,844
Expenditure during the current year to end of July, 1930	...	...	31,677

Dated Binnakandi, 2nd May 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To The SECRETARY, Tea Rates Road Board Fund, Shillong.

Referring to the following sentence in the Proceedings of the last Meeting of the Tea Rates Road Board Fund held on the 16th March 1931:—

“Mr. Little added that in his opinion this was the best route, but before coming to a final decision he suggested that a copy of the report and map be sent to the Commissioner and the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, for the purpose of ascertaining local opinion.”

I am directed to forward an extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 22nd April 1931:—

“The proceedings of the last Meeting of this Board, together with the Superintending Engineer's recommendations as to the new alignment of the road to connect the Hailakandi and Chargola Valley Road Systems, having been previously circulated,—it was agreed that this alignment, which had been selected in consultation with the members from Hailakandi and Chargola, was the most satisfactory, and if constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,60,000 as estimated, would be far cheaper than other suggested routes. The member representing the Surma Valley on the Tea Rates Road Board was directed to press for the commencement of the work as early as possible.”

**Assam Labour : Recruitment of (a) Single Males  
and (b) Short-term labour.**

No. 541-O., dated Calcutta, 28th April 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Assam Labour : Recruitment of (a) Single Males  
and (b) Short-term labour.*

You will doubtless have noted, from the Minute under this heading in the Proceedings of the Meeting of the General Committee of this Association on the 27th March 1931, that the position referred to therein was being brought to the notice of the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association, with a request for information as to how matters stood in regard to these matters in the light of later developments.

2. The replies from Calcutta Agency Houses to my Circular No. 5, dated 22nd January 1931 were duly passed on to the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association on the 31st March 1931, and I now have pleasure in forwarding, for your information, the accompanying copy of the Secretaries' reply dated 9 14th April 1931. From this your Committee will note, that while the question of single males recruiting has assumed new aspects, in so far as many concerns are not now recruiting single males, there is no change in the position in regard to the recruitment of short-term labour.

3. I am to invite the attention of your Committee to the recommendation of the Tea Districts Labour Association that the recruitment of single males should be stopped *for the rest of the current season*, in the hope that this will be the beginning of the ultimate disappearance of this class of labour, and to request you to be good enough to favour the General Committee with your views on that recommendation.

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No. 524, dated Binnakandi, the 30th May 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

*Assam Labour : Recruitment of (a) Single Males and (b)  
Short term Labour.*

In reply to your letter No. 541-O., dated the 28th April 1931, I am directed to say that as far as this Valley is concerned they are

in agreement with the suggestion made that recruitment of single males should be stopped for the rest of the season.

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**Police charges for disturbances on tea garden.**

No. 2995, dated Cachar, the 12th July 1930.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT of Police, Cachar,

To—The MANAGER, Allenpore Tea Estate.

I have the honour to state that a sum of Rs. 14-11-11 has been calculated on account of cost of Police Guard retained in your garden at your request from 8th to 9th June 1930 in connection with the recent disturbance and to request you to be so good as to send the amount as early as possible.

---

No. 2713, dated Cachar, the 2nd July 1930.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT of Police, Cachar,

To—The MANAGER, Allenpore Tea Estate, Cachar.

I beg to send herewith the following bills for motor lorries, etc., in connection with the recent disturbance in your garden and to request you to make the payment as early as possible.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Bill from Sen Gupta Brothers ...	11	4	0
2. Bill from Afzaluddin Chowdhuri ...	42	0	0
3. Bill from Chhotelal Seth & Co. ...	117	0	0
4. Bill from Banga Chandra Pal ...	18	0	0
Total ...	188	4	0

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No. 2712, dated Cachar, the 2nd July 1930.

From—The SUPERINTENDENT of Police, Cachar,

To—The MANAGER, Allenpore Tea Estate, Cachar.

I beg to send herewith a bill for Rs. 10/- from Sen Gupta Brothers and Company, on account of hire of a taxi in connection with the recent disturbance in your garden and to request you to make payment as early as possible.

---

No. 120, dated Binnakandi, the 27th January 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The MANAGER, Boro-Jalingah Tea Estate.

I am directed to forward for your information the following extract from the minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch, held on the 14th instant, with reference to Police charges in connection with disturbances on Tea Gardens which you brought to their notice:—

*"Question of payment of Police charges for lorry hire, etc., in connection with disturbances on tea gardens."*

"A particular case brought up by the Chutla Bheel District Committee having been brought to the notice of this Committee, the Manager of the garden concerned was invited to state his case; he explained that the present moment he was in correspondence with the Superintendent of Police on the subject. It was agreed that in this particular case the charges seemed exorbitant, and failing a satisfactory compromise the Secretary was directed to address the Commissioner on the general principle that payment of rates and taxes by Tea Companies entitles them to Police protection in the event of riots as is given to other rate payers free of charge. The Manager concerned was advised to suspend payment and inform the Secretary before the next Meeting if a compromise with the Police Authorities had been arrived at."

I shall be glad to know the result of your correspondence with the Superintendent of Police. As the information at my disposal refers chiefly to charges for lorry hire, and not actual payment of the Police, before taking any action, my Committee would like to know if you have effected a satisfactory compromise, or wish to take the matter further, and include other expenditure beyond that given in the bill for lorry hire.

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Dated 29th January 1931.

From—The MANAGER, Boro-Jalingah Tea Estate,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have to thank you for your letter of the 27th instant quoting an extract from the Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held

on the 14th instant with reference to Police Charges in connection with the disturbances on Tea Gardens.

The only result thus far in the matter of compromise over the charges made is that the cost of lorries has been reduced from Rs. 188/4/- to Rs. 147/-. Nothing has been said so far about the sum of Rs. 14/4/11, the cost of the Police guard. This I do not propose to pay until a further demand is made, as in conversation with Capt. lightfoot I was given to understand that this might be waived.

The shopkeepers account for the rations supplied to the Police, of Rs. 121/5/9 is attached herewith for your information I am paying this as I do not want to get the industry in bad odour with the Police, but I think, as several items are on the extravagant side, a definite scale of rations might be asked for, so that gardens are not rooked in this way in future. Garden troubles are not the same as a punitive force put on a village.

*Rations taken by Police from Garden Shopkeepers.*

				Rs.	A.	P.
Rice	33½ seers	...	...	4	7	0
Dal	12 seers	...	...	3	1	0
Flour	44½ seers	...	...	12	10	9
Potatoes	38½ seers	...	...	4	9	0
Ghee	19½ seers	...	...	47	10	0
Sugar	18 seers	...	...	6	9	6
Onions	12 seers	...	...	2	3	0
Betelnut	3½ seers	...	...	1	14	6
Pan	...	...	...	11		6
Curry spices	1½ seers	...	...	1	5	6
Black pepper	4½ seers	...	...	6	15	0
Turmeric	1½ seers	...	...	15		6
Salt	6 seers	...	...	7		9
Lime	...	...	...	0		5
Tobbaco leaf	1 seer	...	...	13		0
Matches	...	...	...	9		0
Gold Flake Cigarettes	...	...	...	26	7	6
Total				121	5	9

For 24 Police from Friday night to early Tuesday morning.



Dated Binnakandi, the 5th March 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I am directed to call your attention to the following payments made by the Manager of the Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate account transport and entertainment of police who were called in to deal with a riot of the 8th and 9th June last year. My Committee, on principle, would raise no objection to any reasonable charge under the following headings but consider these seem unnecessarily high, and trust instructions may be issued that will prevent such charges being made in future and a definite scale of rations allotted.

*Bills for lorry hires.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Bill from Sen Gupta Bros. ...	11	4	0
2. Bill from Afzaluddin Choudhuri ...	42	0	0
3. Bill from Chhotelal Seth ...	177	0	0
4. Bill from Bagna Chandra Pal ...	18	0	0
Total	188	4	0

*Rations taken from Garden shopkeepers.*

	Rs.	As.	P.
Rice 33½ seers ...	4	7	0
Dal 12 seers ...	3	1	0
Flour 44½ seers ...	12	10	9
Potatoes 38½ seers ...	4	9	0
Ghee 19½ seers ...	47	10	0
Sugar 18 seers ...	6	9	6
Onions 12 seers ...	2	3	0
Betelnut 3½ seers. ...	1	14	6
Pan ...	11	6	
Curry Spices 1½ seers ...	1	5	6
Black Pepper 4½ seers ...	6	15	6
Turmeric 1½ seers ...	0	15	6
Salt 6 seers ...	0	7	9
Lime ...	0	0	3
Tobacco leaf 1 seer ...	0	13	0
Matches ...	0	9	0
Gold Flake Cigarettes ...	26	7	6
Total	121	5	9

For 20 Police for 3 days.

The following letter No. 240-P., dated 17th March 1931, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association is published for the information of all members of the Branch: -

*"Police Charges in connection with the Disturbance at  
Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate."*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 264-66, dated the 5th March 1931, regarding the payments made by the Manager of the Boro-Jalinga Tea Estate on account of transport and entertainment of police who were called to deal with a riot in Allenpur Tea Estate in 1930, and to say that the Inspector-General of Police has since issued a circular order to the effect that the acceptance of any free gift by the police party when deputed for keeping peace is prohibited and any supplies either rations or other articles obtained from the garden must be paid for on the spot by the individuals concerned. You may perhaps like to issue instructions to the garden managers accordingly for their future guidance.

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**Assam, Dooars and Terai: Proposed inter-District  
Labour Agreement.**

No. 1632-O., dated Calcutta, the 5th November 1930.

From--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To -The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you the accompanying copy of a letter dated 20th/24th October received by the General Committee from the Secretaries of the Tea Districts Labour Association. You will note from the letter that the suggestion has been made that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one district proceeding to gardens in another district, the garden losing the services of the labourers should have a claim to re-imbursement of its recruiting expenses; and that an agreement to this effect should be come to between the various interests concerned. The General Committee will be glad if you will kindly favour them with your Association's views on the proposal at your convenience.

---

Dated Calcutta, 20th/24th October 1930.

From—The SECRETARIES, Tea Districts Labour Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

An opportunity was taken to hold a joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tea Districts Labour Association and the Dooars Control Committee on 10th October 1930, to discuss the question of claims by dooars or Assam Constituents when recruiters or sirdars sent down to the recruiting districts refused to return to their original gardens in Assam and the Dooars respectively. A rule has been framed dealing with the case of an ex-employee of an estate in the Assam or Surma Valley proceeding to another estate in the same Valley; the local agent merely informs both gardens concerned of the whereabouts of the individual in questions leaving it to the estates concerned to get compensation under the local labour rules. Recently however there have been cases where labourers previously employed by an estate in one district have gone to another district and, as you are aware, there is no inter-District Labour Agreement. Such a case occurred recently and we were asked to place the matter before the Committee by the Assam Constituent. We took the opportunity therefore of the joint meeting to have the matter discussed also by the Dooars Control Committee and we quote below the Minute recorded of the discussion:—

“At this stage the Members of the Dooars Control Committee joined the Meeting and jointly discussed the following items:—

“To consider the question of settlement of claims for Dooars recruiters who migrate to Assam or *vice versa*.”

“The Chairman explained that as there is no Labour Agreement between the Assam and Dooars Districts it appeared to be advisable to settle the question of gardens' claims in the event of labour from that garden proceeding to an estate in the other district. The opinion of the Meeting was that in the case of defaulters from gardens in one area going to gardens in the other area, the original garden should have a claim to re-imbursement of its expenses in importing

the labour in question, provided that such labour had not been defaulting more than a year."

"The Secretaries were asked to place the matter together with the view expressed by at the Meeting before the Indian Tea Association for further action with the object of arranging for an agreement between the branches affected."

We shall be obliged therefore if you will place the matter before the proper authorities for further action if thought necessary.

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*Assam, Doorga and Terai: Proposed Inter-District  
Labour Agreement.*

---

Dated Binnakandi, 27th January 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Your letter No. 1632-O., dated the 5th November 1930, together with the accompanying copy of letter MD/470, dated 20th October 1930, from the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association on the above subject, was laid before the General Committee of this Branch at a Meeting held on the 14th instant. I am directed to say that my Committee are entirely in agreement with the proposals made for an inter-district labour Agreement, but would suggest that to make such an agreement effective, two years should be substituted for one year in the following sentence:—

"The original garden should have a claim to reimbursement of its expenses in importing the labour in question provided that such labour had not been defaulting more than a year."

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No. 243-O., dated Calcutta, 17th February 1931.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

*Assam-Dooars-Terai; Proposed Interdistrict Labour Agreement.*

I am directed by the Committee to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter No. 115, dated 27th January 1931, in which you kindly communicated the views of your Association in regard to the suggestion made by the Tea Districts Labour Association, that in the case of defaulters from gardens in the district proceeding to gardens in another district, the gardens so losing the services of the labourers should have a claim to reimbursement of their recruiting expenses, provided that the labourers had not been defaulting for more than one year.

2. This suggestion was duly placed before the Assam and Surma Valley Branch Associations and the Dooars and Terai Planters Associations, for their views which have been communicated to me as follows:—

- (1) The Terai Planters Association is of the opinion that the question of an inter-district labour agreement cannot be discussed until the term "recruiting expenses" has been clarified; and a definition of "recruiting expenses" is accordingly desired.
- (2) The Assam Branch Association agrees to the suggestion and thinks that an agreement on these lines should be concluded among the interests concerned.
- (3) The Dooars planters Association is of the opinion that a formal agreement is unnecessary seeing that cases of labour originally recruited for the Dooars and proceeding to Assam or *vice versa* are so few in number. It is suggested that such cases as might occur could be dealt with on their merits by the Tea Districts Labour Association who could present a statement of accounts for settlement.

- 4) The Surma Valley Branch Association is in entire agreement with the proposals and suggests that it would make any proposed agreement more effective if it were stipulated that the garden losing the services of the labourers should have a claim for reimbursement of its recruiting expenses, provided the labourers had not been defaulting for more than two years.

3. As it is obvious, from the foregoing replies, that further discussion of the suggestion is desirable in order to reach unanimity, I am directed by the Committee to suggest that advantage might be taken of the presence of the representatives of the four Associations in Calcutta round about 20th March 1931 to attend the Annual General Meeting of this Association, and other kindred meetings, to meet specially for a discussion of this question among others. The Central Committee trust this suggestion will meet with your approval.

#### Hail Insurance Assessment Fees.

The revised scale of Hail Insurance Assessment fees as laid down in the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, held on the 3rd March 1926, viz:—

Area damaged by Hail.				Rupees.	
Up to 200 acres	...	...	...	48	(minimum fee.)
Exceeding 200 and not over 300 acres	...	...	...	72	"
" 300 " " " 400 "	...	...	...	96	"
" 400 " " " 500 "	...	...	...	120	"
For each additional 100 acres surveyed beyond 500 acres	...	...	...	16	"

**Labour Rules Agreement.**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ENTICEMENT OF  
LABOUR FROM TEA GARDENS AND OTHER CONCERNS IN THE  
BRAHMAPOOTRA VALLEY AND SURMA VALLEY.

The proprietors or accredited representatives of the several companies or concerns who have signed copies of this agreement do and each of them doth by these presents mutually bind the said companies and concerns to abide by the following Rules and Provisions which are aimed at discouraging and preventing the enticement, harbouring, detention or employed (hereafter called "offences") of garden or other coolies without the consent of the companies and concerns by or for whom such coolies may have been imported recruited or employed and at prescribing certain fines or penalties by way of damages for infringement of such Rules and Provisions, which Rules and Provisions are framed and subscribed on the assurance or assumption that all Proprietors, Boards of Directors, and Managing or other Agents or Secretaries of the said companies and concerns may be depended on to enforce due compliance with all awards made in pursuance of such Rules and Provisions, their active support in that behalf being deemed essential to the same being successfully carried out.

For the purpose of this agreement the following definitions will obtain:—

- (1) *Offence*.—A person is guilty of an offence against these rules who employs or harbours or entices any coolie who is claimable, under these rules, by another concern.
- (2) *Defaulter* means any free coolie who has absconded while under *bona fide* advances to his concern or a coolie recruited by one concern who has proceeded direct from the recruiting district to another concern without reporting to, and obtaining the sanction of, the first concern.
- (3) *Bona fide* advances mean advances made by a concern or its recognised agents and do not include shop-keeper's bills or line debts.
- (4) *To employ and/or employment* shall include special contract work and/or work under contractors engaged by and/or on the concern.

*It is agreed that--*

1. All coolies living within the area of a concern's grant or premises are to be considered coolies of such concern whether regularly employed or not, but coolies living in the vicinity of a concern and outside its boundaries shall not be considered as coolies of such concern unless under agreement to the concern.

2. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie (whether under contract or not) who has been imported by another concern, within the period of 3 years after importation, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the importing concern.

3. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie other than mentioned in Rule 2 who may be under Act XIII agreement to another concern, as shown by such concern's Cash and Agreement Books, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the concern to which he was under contract.

4. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain a coolie who is a defaulter to another concern, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after such coolie has defaulted.

5. No subscriber to these rules shall directly or indirectly entice or endeavour to entice any coolies employed on another concern from such employment.

6. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie who has been imported *bona fide* by him and has been employed as a coolie and/or as a recruiter, but who, it is proved, was either originally imported, or employed under Act XIII agreement, or employed as a free coolie, by another concern.

Should any coolie be employed, harboured or detained under the above circumstances no proceedings shall be taken under Rules 2, 3 and 4, but the coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or



children shall be claimed under this rule, on tender of the recruiting expenses as provided hereunder in Rule 8.

No claim shall lie in any case where such coolie has been employed as a recruiter in respect of any coolie or coolies so recruited other than the wife or husband, child or children of the recruiting coolie as the case may be.

No claim shall lie in any case under this rule unless made within two years from the time such coolie left the claiming concern.

7. The respective penalties for breaches of the foregoing Rules No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall not exceed the maximum penalties respectively laid down for breaches of these respective rules in the Schedule hereto. Such sum or sums as may be awarded under this Schedule shall be in addition to any other sum, properly under Rule 8 as recruiting expenses.

8. In all cases in which under these Rules (save as hereafter provided in cases coming under the provisions of Rule 6) coolies are properly claimable from one concern by another and are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall not be responsible to pay the concern from which such coolies return, any sums of money advanced or any bonuses or other like sums paid by such latter concern to such coolies.. In cases of claims under Rule 6, where the recruiting coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or children are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall be liable to pay the actual recruiting expenses paid by the concern from which such coolies are claimed in respect of such coolies.

9. Every complaint as to the alleged infringement of the foregoing rules are as to an offence of the kind or nature in such rules indicated shall be in writing signed by the superintendent or Manager in charge who is directly responsible to the Agents or Proprietors of the complaint concern and addressed and delivered or sent to the like Superintendent or Manager of the concern complained against and every such complaint shall state : -

(1) in the case of an alleged infringement of either Rules 2, 3, 4 or 6 as above, such of the following particulars as are applicable to the particular case : -

(a) All particulars necessary for the identification of the coolies who are the subject matter of the complaint.

- (b) The period, if any, of the coolie's non-expired service compulsory or otherwise :

*Such complaint shall also contain a statement that in the event of the non-return of the coolies the following sums will be claimed, viz. :*

- (c) The amount of penalty.
  - (d) The cost of importing and recruiting the coolies when claimed under Rule 2.
  - (e) The amount of advances outstanding when claimed under Rules 3 and 4.
- 2) In the case of an alleged infringement of Rule 5 the grounds which it is alleged constitute the alleged offence.

10. The recipient of any such complaint within three days from the receipt thereof, shall, if the complaint be made under Rules 2, 3 or 4 hereof, and in the event of his not repudiating the same either—

- (a) Pay or remit or settle the amount claimed in which case he may retain the coolie, or
- (b) Forwith eject (in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with all his belongings from his concern.

11. If the complaint be made under 6, and in the event of his not repudiating the same he shall forthwith eject (in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with his or her wife, husband, child or children and all his belongings from his concern.

12. In the event of the recipient of any such complaint (whether made under Rules 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) repudiating responsibility thereof—

- (c) He shall deliver or send to the complainant a written statement recording the grounds on which he disputes liability in the whole or in part, as the case may be, provided that if he adopts this course his liability

shall not be affected should the coolies or any of them abscond before final award or payment thereof.

13. If the recipient of any such complaint should fail or neglect to take either of these courses, he shall stand liable for the full amount of the claim and/or penalties provided by the rules as the case may be.

14. If the dispute be not otherwise adjusted, the complainant may send—

(a) to the Secretary of the Assam Branch :—

(i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Brahmaputra Valley;

(ii) when the complainant concern is in the Surma Valley and the concern complained against is in the Brahmaputra Valley;

(b) to the Secretary of the Surma Valley Branch :—

(i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Surma Valley;

(ii) when the complainant concern is in the Brahmaputra Valley and the concern complained against is in the Surma Valley;

under registered post, a full copy of his complaint and of the other side's statement to be adjudicated upon by a Court of Arbitration to be constituted in accordance with the following Rules and By-Laws, *viz.* :—

#### RULES FOR ARBITRATIONS.

(a) The Court shall be constituted by the Branch Committee on receipt of the papers which must contain the full complaint as set out in Rule 9.

(b) The Court shall consist of three Arbitrators who shall be selected by the Branch Committee from any recognised and impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns who are willing to serve.

- (c) The Court appointed as aforesaid shall elect their own Chairman.
- (d) The Court may call for such evidence whether oral or documentary as they require to enable them to deal with any matter coming before them, and the parties to the arbitration or their agents or representatives shall if required submit to examination on oath or affirmation in relation to the matters in disputes and shall produce before the Court all books, papers, accounts or other documents in their possession or power which may be required or called for and do all other things which the court may require.
- (e) The decision of the majority of the Court shall be taken as the decision of the Court.
- (f) The names of the arbitrators constituting the Court shall not be ordinarily disclosed to the parties nor shall the parties be entitled to such information as of right but the whole question shall be in the absolute discretion of the Branch Committee.
- (g) The non-disclosure of the said names shall not in any case affect the validity of the proceedings or any award made therein nor afford any ground for objection to the filing of the Award.
- (h) If any Arbitrator declines or fails to act or dies or becomes incapable of acting the Branch Committee may substitute a new arbitrator in his place and the Court so reconstituted shall proceed with the arbitration with liberty to act on the record of the proceedings as then with existing (if any) or to commence the arbitration *de novo*, as they may decide.
- (i) The Court may at their own instance before making their final Award and at the expense of the parties consult, refer to and act on the advice recommendations or suggestions of any two impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns not being in any way interested in or connected with either concern involved in the dispute.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

1. For an offence against Rule 2 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 300 for each coolie for the first offence, and of Rs. 500 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
2. For an offence against Rule 3 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 200 for each coolie for the first offence and of Rs. 300 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
3. For an offence affecting any coolie who is a defaulter to another concern as provided under Rule 4, the penalty will be Rs. 50 for each coolie in addition to payment of all *bona fide* advances shown against such coolie in the concern books and such sum as may be awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
4. For an offence against Rule 5 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 500 for the first offence and of Rs. 1,000 for a second or subsequent offence, irrespective of any penalties which may have been previously enforced under Rules 2, 3 and 4.
5. For failure to comply with the terms of Rule 6 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 1,000 for each offence.

*List of signatories to the Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Labour Rules.*

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Achabam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	257	
Ahmedy Tea Estate ...	B. H. Ahmed ...	...	176	
All-India Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	312
Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	2,659
Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co. Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	941
Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,410	331
Amranagar Tea Estate ...	Crozier's Agency, Ltd.	...	.....	100
Amgoorie Tea Estates, Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,329	
Amluckie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	851	
Amo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	1,857
Anandabag Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	I.	80	
Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,118	724
Annapurna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	287
Appin Tea Estate ...	N. C. Dey ...	I.	.....	247
Arcuttipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	I.	.....	818
Aryan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Hope & Co.	...	.....	305
Assam Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co. ...	I.	12,596	
Assam Doars Tea Co., Ltd. (Orangajuli).	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	962	
Assam Estates, Ltd. ...	Macneil & Co.	I.	835	
Assam Frontier Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	8,553	
Assam Frontier Tea Seed Syndicate	S. W. & Co. ...	...	70	
Assam Indigo, Ltd. ...	Mrs. L. G. Tun- stall.	...	.....	
Assam Proper Tea Co., Ltd.	Chatterjee, Ganguli & Co.	I.	76	
*Assam Rlys. & Trading Co., Ltd.	Agent & General Manager.	I.	500	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Assam Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.	Industrial Agency, Ltd.	...	.....	105
Assam United Tea Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,573	1,156
Attabaree Tea Estate ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	700	
Attareekhat Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,396	
Aylabaree Tea Estate ...	National Trading Syndicate.	...	.....	
Badulipar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	3,290	
Baghjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	467	
Baghmari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	563	
Bahoni Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	200	
Balijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	872	
Balimara & Balijan Tea Concern.	Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	...	312	
Baloma Tea Estate ...	Baloma T. Coy.	...	205	
Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	918
Bamgaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,050	
Banamali & Gosaibari Tea Estates.	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	420	
*Baragara Tea Estate ...	G. W. & Co.	...	.....	
Baracora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	4,966
Barampur Tea Estate ...	K. Ahmed.	...	.....	
Bargang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,683	
Barguree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Bashibaree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	69	
Basmatia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	321	
Bateli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	400	
Baziloni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	705	
Behubor Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,070	

\*Is a division of the Gour Nitte Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Belsiri and Chardwar Tea Estates, Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	766	
Bengal Tea Co., Ltd.	Bengal Tea Co.	...	200	
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co. ...	I.	1,088	4,547
Betjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co. ...	I.	435	
Bettybari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	(See note below)	...	...	
Bharat Samiti, Ltd. ...	G. C. Datt ...	...	...	
Bhartia Tea and Seed Estate Co., Ltd.	S. H. Bhartia ...	...	...	
Bhootia Chang Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co. ...	I.	881	
Bhubandhar Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co. ...	I.	.....	652
Bhubrighat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. J. Lamb ...	I.	.....	660
Bhuyankhat Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Bidyanagar Tea Estate ...	Martin & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,978
Bijlijan Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	50	
Binapani Tea Estate ...	Hope & Co. ...	...	.....	
Birkmyre Bros. (Kamrup Jute Cultivation)	...	...	.....	
Bishnath Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	3,704	
Bogabagh Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	408	
Bogidholia Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	351	
Bokakhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	487	
Borabari Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Borahi Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	411	
Borasali Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Borbhoel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	698	
Borbhetta Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Bordubi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	1,206	
Borelli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	2,113	

Is merged in the Tezpur Tea Co., Ltd.



NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Berhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,611	
Borholla Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Barlow & Co.	L.	.....	
Borjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	L.	1,012	
Bormajan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	L.	450	
Borokai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	853
Boroi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	L.	743	
Borpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Villiers, Ltd.	...	300	
Borpatra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Borpukhuri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	L.	576	
Borsoikota Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	250	
Borting Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	165	
Bosabarie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	180	
Brae & Chingoor Tea Estates, Ltd.	Barlow & Co.	L.	2,034	
Brahmaputra Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	4,842	
Brahmaputra Himalayan Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	310	
British Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	L.	1,332	
British Indian Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	996	903
Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	500
Budla Beta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	2,700	
Bukhial Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	L.	313	
Burdwar Tea & Timber Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	270	
Burkhola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	200
Burrapahar Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	55	
Cachar & Dooars Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	.....	2,747
Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.	B. V. Gupta, (Manager.)	...	.....	1,180
Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	L.	.....	1,400

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	...	1,539
Chandmary Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	140	
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	...	790
Chapani Tea Estate ...	.....	...	50	
Chapanullah Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	268	
Chardwar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co.	L.	382	
Chargola Tea Assocn., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	3,080
Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	L.	...	588
Chenijan Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	160	
Chicknagool Tea Estate ...	M. D. Tunsial	...	...	180
Chicommati Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Chineorie Tea Co. (1920). Ltd.	Villiers, Ltd.	...	...	500
Choomsah Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	300	
Chowkidingi Tea Estates, Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	765	
Chubwa Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	3,978	
Chundeecherra Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	555
Clarence Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Clevedon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	488
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,248	15,978
Coolikoosie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	493	
Corramore Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co., Ltd.	I.	990	
Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	650
Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	I.	.....	408
Cutlacherra Tea Estate ...	A. Chalmers.	...	.....	273
Dahingepur Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co.	I.	562	
Dalhousie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	700	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Dalowjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	239	
Dangri & Dhenjan Tea Seed Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Dauracherra Tea Co., Ltd....	D. B. & Co. ...	I.	.....	576
Deamoolie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,303	
Debapur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Deckiajulie Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	390	
Dealeehee Merbeel Estates	R. C. Dutt ...	...	173	
Dejoo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	915	
Dejoo Valley Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	255	
Dekhari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,738	
Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
*Desang Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	1,153
Dessai & Parbuttia Tea Co., Ltd.	G. H. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,481	
Dhendi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	2,840
Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,708
Dhelakhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	907	
Dhendai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	679	
Dhoolie Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	765	
†Dhullie Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	...	.....	
Dhunseri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	492	
Dibru Darrang Tea Co., Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	580	
Dibru Doonars Tea Co., Ltd.	I. P. & Co., Ltd.	...	1,000	
Dildarpur Tea Co., Ltd.	Chatterjee, Gangullee & Co.	I.	.....	325
Dilkhoosh Tea Estate ...	Macnair & Co.	I.	.....	479
Dilkhusa Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Pandit & Co.	...	.....	

\* Incorporated in the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

† Is a division of Talikong Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Dilli Tea Estate ...	Secy. Naga Hills.	...	.....	
Dimakhusi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	658	
Dirai Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	100	
Dixa Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	50
Dolaguri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	500	
Doloi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	600
Doloc Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	1,449
Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,444
Doolahat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	873	
Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	447	1,185
Doom Duoma Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	5,640	
Doomni Tea Estate ...	Tea Estates India Ltd.	I.	593	
Doria Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	1,008	
Doyang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	720	
Dayapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	423
Dr. D. O'Briens Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	506	
Duckingole Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Dufflaghur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	600	
Dulcherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	570
Durgabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	80	
Durganagar Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	105
Durrang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	570	
Eastern Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	3,330	
East India Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,552	
East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I.	.....	2,180
Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,103
Eastern Hindusthan Tea Co., Ltd.	Pandit & Co.	...	.....	150
Eastern Tea Corporation, Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	150

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Empire of India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	5,769	
Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	758
Eraligool & Binodini Tea Estates.	J. B. Marshall, Manager.	...	.....	742
Farkating Tea Estates ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	105	
Ghazipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	570
Ghoir Allie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	510	
Gillapakri Tea & Seed Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	490	
Gingia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	705	
Gobindpore Tea Estate ...	G. C. Dutt	...	.....	506
Gohpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	442	
Gosaibarrie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	152	
Greenwood Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	1,730	
Gour Nitye Tea Co., Ltd. (Baragara).	G. W. & Co.	...	325	
Grob Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,115	
Halem Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	1,000	
Halisabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
•Halmari Tea Estate ...	(See foot note)	I.	.....	
Halmirah Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	491	
Halmiramukh Tea Estate	W. M. & Co.	I.	160	
Hapjan Parbat Tea Co., Ltd.	Villiers, Ltd.	...	220	
Harish Nagar Tea Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	1,500
Harmutty Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	833	
Hatijan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	...	.....	
Hattigor Tea Estate ...	.....	...	00	
Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	2,730
+Hautley Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	

\* Proprietor Amrawati Tea Co., Ltd., Jalpaiguri,

† Is a division of the Badulipur Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Haveda Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I	75	
Hill Tipperah Tea Syndi- cate, Ld.	Planters Society	...	.....	752
Hindusthan Tea & Fishery, Ld.	.....	...	.....	310
Hingrijan Tea Co., Ld. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	595	
Hoograjuli (Assam) Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	406	
Hoolungoorie Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,235	
Haroochorai Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	
Hunwal Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	1,514	
Imperial Tea Co., Ld. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	2,316	22 00
Indeswar Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	G. C. Dutt.	...	.....	896
Indian Home Mission to the Santals Tea Gardens.	Lyall Marshall & Co.	I.	.....	
Indian National Trading & Planting Corporation, Ld.	I. P. Agency Co., Ld.	...	100	
Indian Tea Corporation, Ld. Julia Tea Estate Mandakata Tea Estate.	S. W. & Co.	...	200	
Indian Tea Co. of Cachar, Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,304
Indian Tea & Commerce, Ld.	Planters Guild.	...	.....	310
Industrial Development Co., Ld.	Sylhet Tea Syndi- cate (Committee)	...	.....	264
Iringmara Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	.....	358
Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	905
Itakbooli Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	855	
Jagduar Tea Estate ...	Ditto	...	109	
Jaipur Tea Co., Ld. ...	B. L. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,114	
Jalalnagar Tea Estate ...	All-India Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	...	.....	
Jalanga Tea Co. Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	750
Jatlibari Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	594	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	AGREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Jettinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	2,531
Jhanzie Tea Association, Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	4,666	
Jhirighat (Native) Tea Concern.	P. S. & A. Co. Ltd.	...	.....	352
Jokai (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	11,484	
Joonktoolee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	K. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	575	
*Jorehaut Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	10,025	
Kacharigaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	718	
Kakadanga Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	
Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	463
Kalinagar Tea Estate ...	Bharat Samity, Ltd.	...	.....	642
Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	400
Kalline Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,351
Kallinugger & Khoreel Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	586
Kamrup Tea Association, (Amchong).	G. F. White.	...	400	
Kanan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,205	
Karimganj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Eastern Commer- cial Union.	...	.....	375
Kathoni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	100	
Kenduguri Tea Estate ...	J. C. Banerjee.	...	.....	
Khonajan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	110	
Khonikor Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co.	I.	426	
Khongea Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	594	
Khowang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	572	
Killing Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	579	
Kingsley Golaghat Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	1,677	
Kirtikona Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Mitra & Co.	...	.....	

\*Includes Noonhabari Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Koliabur & Seconee Tea Co., Ld.	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,231	
Kookecherra Tea Co., Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,779
Koomsong Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,009	
Koshogan Tea Seed ...	.....	...	95	
Koyah Tea Co., Ld. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	709
Kuhum Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	
Kunchanpore Tea Co., Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	...	.....	547
Kuturi Tea Co., (1920), Ld.	Villiers, Ld.	...	400	
Kyang Tea Seed Estate ...	S. W. & Co.	...	.....	
Lackatoorah Tea Co., Ld.	J. Macmillan & Co.	I.	.....	1,178
Ladoigore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	20	
*Lalchand Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	...	.....	
Lalkura Tea Co., Ld. ...	J. Macmillan & Co.	...	110	
Langboi Tea Estate ...	.....	...	75	
Lankashi Tea & Seed Estate	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	120	
Latasil Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Ledo Tea Co., Ld. ...	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I.	989	
Lepetkatta Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	951	
Letekoojan Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	470	
Limbuguri Tea Co., Ld. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	569	
Longai Valley Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,931
Loobah Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	1,155
Looksan Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	904
†Luckicherra Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ld.	...	.....	
Lukwah Tea Co., Ld. ...	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,254	
Luugla (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ld.	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	5,092
Luskerpore Tea Co., Ld. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	1,015
Luxmi Tea Co., Ld. ...	Davenport & Co., Ld.	...	550	

\*Lalchand Tea Estate is a division of the Deundi Tea Co., Ld.

†Luckicherra is included in Duckingole Tea Estate.



NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Madarkhat Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	166	
Madhupur Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	.....	176
Madhuting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	125	
Madoora Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Mahakali Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co. ...	...	.....	
Mahora Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Majagram Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,280
Makum (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,026	
Majuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	3,761	
Mangaldai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	885	
Manipur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co. ...	I.	.....	528
Mantala Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	350
Marangi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co. Ltd.	I.	208	
Mand Tea & Seed Co., Ltd. ...	H. C. Garbett ...	I.	.....	
Maulvi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co. ...	I.	.....	500
Mazdehee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	600
Mazengah Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	.....	
Moekla Nuddy Saw Mills Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	
*Medlajan Tea Estate ...	I. P. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Meleng Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	1,611	
Methoni Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	311	
Meruahola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
†Mertinga Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	342
Mirzapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
Mittunguri Seed Garden ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	65	
Moabuud Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	3,499	
Modhupur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	225	
Moheema, Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	593	

\*Is a division of the Borasali Tea Co., Ltd.

†Mertinga is a division of the Deundi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmapu- tra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Mahamedpur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	332
Mokalbari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.,	I. & L.	702	
Mokrung Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National A. Co., Ltd.	...	480	
Monmoy Tea Estate ...	Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	I.	480	
Monmohinipur Tea Co., Ltd.	A. W. Figgs & Co.	I.	335	
Moolan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Moomincherra Tea Estate	.....	...	.....	260
Moran Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,000	
Mornai Tea Estate ...	Lyall Marshall & Co.	...	520	
Mothola Co., Ltd. ...	K. P. & Co., Ltd.	I.	455	
Motijan Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	78	
Mudilampore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	227
Modojan Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	317	
*Muraicherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	300
Murphulani Tea Co. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	232	
Naga Hills Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	550	
Nagenganj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	
Naharkatiya, Ltd. (Saw Mill)	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Naherhabi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	880	
Nahorjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	880	
Namburnadi Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	773	
Namdang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,035	
†Narayanpur Tea Estate ...	H. M. Bose, (Manager).	I.	.....	
National Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	...	500	
Nepaphoo Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	43	
New Assam Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I.	375	
New Cinnatollah Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	965	

\* Is a garden of the Prithimpasra Wards Estate.

† Is a division of Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
New Darrang Tea Corporation, Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	200	
New Monkhoosi Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I.	450	
New Eastern Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	640	
New India Tea Corporation, Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	277	
New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	949
New Sylhet Tea Estates, Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	1,169
Nilphamari Union Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	.....	
Nilpur Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I.	145	1
*Noahabarie Tea Estate, Ltd.	B. D. & Co.	...	657	
Noanuddy Tea Concern	Raja of Mymensingh.	...	350	
Noarbund Tea Co.	.....	...	.....	360
Nokroy (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
†Noonmati Tea Estate	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,478
Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	835
Oating Tea Estate	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	223	
Ooterbagh & Indanugger Tea Estate.	G. C. Dutt.	...	.....	896
Orang Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	511	
Oriental Tea Co., Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	125	
Ouphulia Tea Estate	P. K. Borthakur.	I.	.....	
Paboojan Tea Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	2,147	
Padloomoni Tea Seed Syndicate.	.....	...	56	
‡Palakandi Tea Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Panbari Tea Co., Ltd.	.....	...	260	
Panbarry Tea Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	413	

\*Noahabarie Tea Estate now division of the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

†Noonmati Tea Estate is included in Ramsa Hill Tea Estate.

‡Is a garden of the Prithimpassa Wards Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Panchnoi Tea Estate ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	350	
Panikhati Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....	
Parbutpore Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	520
Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,999
Patrakola Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	607	1,417
Phukennagor Tea Estate ...	...	...	.....	
Phukenbarri Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	484	
Puraphbarri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	300	
Purbutguri Tea Seed Garden	...	...	.....	
Prithimpassa Wards Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
Rajabaree Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	...	517	
Rajabaree Tea Estate ...	...	...	550	
*Rajabhetta Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	317	
Rajah Ali Tea Estates, Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	386	
Rajgarah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	236	
Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	848
Rajmai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,309	
Ramani Krishna Tea Estate	...	...	.....	138
Ramra Hill Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	112	
Rangloa Tea Estate ...	...	...	90	
Rani Tea Estate ...	...	...	270	
Romai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	571	
Roopabilly Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	362
Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	679
Rowriah Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	217	
Rukni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	H. M. Girdling ...	I.	470	
Rungajann Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,136	

\*Withdrawn from the Agreement as from 7th February 1925.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Rungamattee Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	744
Rungieherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	350
Rungliting Tea Co. ...	W. Holder ...	I.	605	
Rupajuli Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	806	
Rupai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,057	
*Rupshi Tea Estate ...	J. Mackilloan & Co.	...	110	
Rutema Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,201
Sabajpur (Jhingola) Tea Estate	Cachar Native Joint Stock Co. (Proprs.), Ltd.	...	{ 350 701	
Sadasiva Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Saikowah (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co. ...	I.	.....	
Salehapra Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Salona Tea Co., Ltd. ...	M. M. & Co. ...	I.	4,389	
Sapoi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	861	
Scottish Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	1,314	
Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,400
Seajuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	521	
Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	.....	2,163
Shakomato Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	945	
Sibsagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	364	
Silonebari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co. ...	I.	1,174	
†Singlijan Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	356	
Singlo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co. ...	I.	3,659	
Singphoo Tea Estate ...	Baloma Tea Co.	...	60	
Sonabheel (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	603	
Sonai River Tea Co. ...	Davenport & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	800
Sonapore Tea Co. ...	Martin & Co. ...	I.	350	
†Sonarupa Tea Estate ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	546

\*Formerly known as Lalkara Tea Estate.

†Is a Division of Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd.

‡Is a Division of Jokai Assam Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where Signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	412
Sreebari Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	250
Star Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	120
Sreekona Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	
Sridharpore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	450
Srihatta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	.....	279
Sukanjuri Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	100	
Sumati Tea Estate ...	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	120	
Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,207
Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co. ...	I.	.....	700
Sylhet Tea & Industry, Ltd.	Traders Association.	...	.....	310
Taikrong Tea Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	454	
Tamulbari Tea Estate ...	C. K. Agarwalla	I.	320	
Tapassia Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Tara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,200	
Tarapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneil & Co. ...	I.	.....	6,051
*Teekulpur Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
Teen Ali Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	517	
Teloijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co. ...	I.	450	
Toiapara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,172
Tengpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co. ...	I.	107	
Tozapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	866	
Thakurbari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	
Thanaï Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneil & Co. ...	I.	2,003	
Thengalbaree Tea Estate Ma- dhubpur and Thengalbari.	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	1,460	
Tilkah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	759
Timon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co.	I.	170	

\* Incorporated in the Jatinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.

+ Includes Battybari.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where Signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Tingamira Tea Seed Syndi- cate, Ltd.	McLeod & Co. ...	I.	.....	
Tinkong Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	822	
Tingri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	1,987	
Tirual Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	175	
Titabur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	625	
Titadimo Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co. ...	I.	307	
Titajuri Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Tongani Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	336	
Tonjin Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co. ...	I.	221	
Topia Tea Estate ...	P.S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	
Tyrom Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	652	
Udalguri Tea Estate ...	P.S. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	185	
Udna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co. ...	I.	.....	375
Unabari Tea Estate ...	National Agency	...	60	
Union Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	300
Upper Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co. ...	I. & L.	4,208	
Western Cachar Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co. ...	I.	.....	1,199
Western Doars Tea Syndi- cate, Ltd.	.....	...	200	
Woollands Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Zalom Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P.S. & A. Co. Ltd.	I.	563	

## Indian Tea Association.

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### SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

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#### REVISED RULES.

*(As from the 30th March 1927.)*

1. The Association shall be called the "Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association."

2. The objects of the Association are generally to watch over and, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the Tea Industry of the Surma Valley, also to keep in touch with Government, the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and other Associations on matters connected with the Indian Tea Industry.

3. The Association shall consist of Companies, Proprietors, or Concerns occupied in the production of tea in the Surma Valley. Such Companies or Concerns shall ordinarily be represented by the nominee of their Calcutta Agents on the District Committees of each district in which they are interested.

4. Private Proprietors or Concerns, not having Managing Agents, shall be entitled to elect one member only to the Committee of each district in which they own an interest. Such election to be ballotted for among themselves on the basis of one vote for each 100 acres of tea subscribed for the Association. Companies or Concerns wishing to join, need not necessarily be members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

\* a) The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of two and half-an-annas per acre under tea cultivation.

(b) If it shall be found that any Manager or Managers or Agents have evaded payment on his or their acreage he or they shall be called upon to pay up the arrears for the last three years and shall not be entitled to

\*This has been increased during the year 1931 to annas five per acre for European managed Gardens to provide for Political Protection.



vote or benefit to any of the privilege of the Association, until that sum be paid in full.

5(a) The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following nine districts:—

Luskerpur, Balisera, Mid-Sylhet, (Jungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma) Chargola-Longai, Luckipur, Hailakandi, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley, North Cachar.

(b) In each of the above-named districts, a Committee, to be termed a District Committee, shall be formed; the members of such Committee shall be appointed by the Calcutta Agents interested in the district; each Agency House so interested being empowered to appoint one member.

(c) Members, not having Managing Agents, may ballot for one independent member for each District Committee in whose area they hold an interest in tea as provided for in Rule 3.

(d) An Honorary Chairman and Honorary Secretary shall be elected annually, as soon as possible, after the 1st April but not later than the end of that month, by the members of each District Committee from among their number. These offices may be held by one and the same person.

(e) In the case of a member of a District Committee, or the General Committee being absent on leave, or permanently leaving the District, his Agents in the former case and his District Committee in the latter case shall elect his substitute.

(f) A District Committee may consist of any number of members not less than three and shall meet at least twice annually preferably a fortnight previous to each of the two General Committee meetings.

(g) Any member of a District Committee unavoidably absent from a meeting may give his proxy to any other member of the same District Committee.

- (4) At a District Committee meeting three members present in person or two members present in person and one by proxy shall form a quorum.
  - (5) When any matter of interest or importance is brought to the notice of the Honorary Chairman of a District Committee, he shall instruct the Honorary Secretary to call a meeting of which fourteen days' notice shall ordinarily be given 'except in a case of urgency when seven days shall suffice'; a report of the proceedings of such meetings shall be sent to the Secretary to the Branch. District Committees shall take action through the Branch Secretary who shall have the matter in question brought before the Chairman of the Branch for orders.
  - (6) A District Committee may discuss and pass a resolution on, or make suggestions in connection with any subject affecting local planting interests either directly or otherwise. Any member may require his District Committee representative to bring up for discussion any subject which may affect his interests. The District Committee may, thereupon, require their representatives on the General Committee to bring the matter before that Committee for the necessary action, if any.
  - (7) Each member of a District Committee shall be entitled to one vote for every complete 100 acres of tea, which he represents, and which had paid the annual subscription to the Branch. The Chairman, in case of equal voting to have a casting vote.
  - (8) District Committee members shall, when a meeting is impracticable, state their views, in writing to the Honorary Secretary, who in conjunction with the Chairman, shall draw up a resolution in accordance with the opinion expressed by the majority, and forward same to the Secretary of the General Committee for approval and action, if any.
6. (a) For the conduct of the Association's business, the different District Committees shall as soon as possible,

after the 1st April, but not later than the end of that month, elect the representatives they are entitled to, as specified below, who shall form the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, which Committee shall at their first meeting thereafter elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman need not necessarily be a member of any District Committee.

Luskerpore	District shall elect one member.
Balibera	„ „ „ two members.
Mid-Sylhet	„ „ „ three „
Chargola-Longai	„ „ „ two „
Hailakandy	„ „ „ „ „
Chutla Bheel	„ „ „ „ „
Luckipur	„ „ „ „ „
Happy Valley	„ „ „ One member.
North Cachar	„ „ „ „ „

or sixteen members in all, irrespective of the Chairman.

- (b) In all matters of whatsoever nature that come up before the General Committee, each member shall have one vote only.
- (c) The Chairman, or his deputy, in cases of equality of votes shall have a second or casting vote.
- (d) In case of a member of the General Committee being absent on leave for more than three months, or permanently leaving the district he shall notify the Branch Secretary of his intention, if possible, at least one month previous to his departure, so that a substitute may be provided for.
- (e) The meetings of the General Committee shall take place at least half-yearly as soon as after 1st January and 1st July, respectively, as possible subject to one month's notice, but the Chairman or his deputy may, if he thinks fit, call a Special Meeting of the Committee to consider any matter of urgency or importance, and shall give seven days' notice of such meetings.

- (f) The meeting of the General Committee shall ordinarily be held at Silchar, except that it shall be optional for the Sylhet members to claim that each alternate meeting be held at some convenient place in Sylhet to be decided upon by them; but notice of such intention must be given to the Secretary at least one month previous to the date of the meeting which they propose should be held in Sylhet.
- (g) Any member, unable to attend a meeting may give his proxy to another member of the General Committee to act for him.
- (h) Any member of the General Committee, who is not present in person, or by proxy, at any three consecutive meetings of that Committee, creates a vacancy; and the Secretary of the Branch shall request his District Committee to nominate another representative.
- (i) In the event of a Chairman of either the General or District Committee wishing to resign during the term of his office, he shall call a meeting to appoint a substitute giving, if possible, one month's but not less than seven days' notice of such meeting; and shall continue to act until such appointment is made.
- (j) Seven members present in person or five in person and two by proxy, shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.
- (k) The General Committee shall appoint and control the paid Secretary whose office shall be an annual one.
- 7. (a) The Secretary shall ordinarily keep a register of all Proceedings, carry on the clerical work of the Branch and shall collect the subscription due to the Branch. He shall draw up and submit accounts to the General Committee in each half-year, as soon as possible, after the 1st January and the 1st July.

A copy of accounts shall be sent to all members one month before the meeting at which they would come before the General Committee for discussion and sanction; and copies of accounts shall, thereafter be circulated to all members.

- (b) The Secretary shall also circulate to all members a copy of all communications issued under the authority of the General Committee, and upon receiving particulars, a copy of the Proceedings of all District Committee meetings, also a copy of the Proceedings of all General Committee meetings.
- (c) The Secretary shall furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a copy of all communications emanating from, and proceedings of General Committee.

8. The Secretary on receiving particulars from the Chairman of the General or District Committees, concerning matters of public interest which require the attention of the Branch (should the Chairman consider a meeting inexpedient) shall circulate copies of the particulars to all members of the General Committee, who shall furnish the Secretary within a fortnight with his written opinion, so that in conjunction with the Chairman of the Branch, he may decide by the general opinion what action should be taken.

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by ten ordinary members of the Surma Valley Branch of the Association stating the reason therefor, the Secretary shall convene an ordinary General Meeting of members of the Branch at Silchar, on giving one month's notice of such meeting and stating for what reason, and on whose requisition it has been called.

10. The General Committee of the Branch may, at a meeting provided 75 per cent. of all members of the General Committee are agreeable, add to, or delete from alter or frame any new rule as may be considered necessary.

**Surma Valley Branch.**

*Statement of Account for the year ending 31st December 1930.*

[illegible]



## SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

### Indian Tea Association.

*List of members of the General Committee elected for  
the year 1931-32.*

#### MEMBERS.

MR. A. F. STUART, ( <i>Chairman</i> ),		
MR. H. M. JAMES, ( <i>Vice- Chairman.</i> ) ...	}	<i>Mid-Sylhet.</i>
„ F. J. HEATHCOTE, M.L.C. ...		
„ H. N. MCKENZIE ...		
„ V. G. EVERY ...	}	<i>Chargola-Longai.</i>
„ T. E. HOLBROOK ...		
„ G. E. RAYNER ...	}	<i>Balisera.</i>
„ J. H. WOTHERSPOON ...		
„ C. N. W. GRIMSHAW ...		<i>Luskerpore.</i>
„ D. PATERSON ...	}	<i>Hailakandi.</i>
„ P. TRINKLE ...		
„ F. W. CARPENTER ...	}	<i>Chutla Bheel.</i>
„ T. A. BLACKLAWS ...		
„ C. W. MORLEY ...		<i>North Cachar.</i>
„ F. ROSS JONES ...		<i>Happy Valley.</i>
„ S. A. PEARSON ...	}	<i>Lakhipur.</i>
„ H. G. WEBB ...		
MR. W. E. D. COOPER, M.L.C., ( <i>Secretary</i> .)		



*List of Members of the District Committees elected for  
the year 1931-32.*

**Lakhipur District Committee.**

Name of Members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. S. A. Pearson, (Chairman & Hon. Secy.)	Burtoll	... Macneill & Co.
„ H. G. Webb ...	Tilkah	... Octavious Steel & Co., Ltd.
„ C. E. Ewing ...	Chingoor	... Barlow & Co.

**Happy Valley District Committee.**

Mr. F. Ross Jones (Chairman & Hon. Secy.)	Chandighat	... Duncan Brothers & Co.
„ A. Mackenzie ...	Cossipore	... Macneill & Co.
„ A. Mackenzie ...	Doyapore	... Walker Goucart & Co.
„ J. S. Mercer ...	Arcuttipore	... J. Mackillican & Co.
„ H. E. Bennett ...	Larsingah	... Begg Dunlop & Co.
„ W. G. Goody ...	Dooloogram	... McLeod & Co.
„ O. F. Hamilton...	Coombergram	... Octavious Steel & Co., Ltd.
„ A. B. Beddow ...	Urrunabund	... Balmer Lawrie & Co.
„ A. B. Martin ...	Martycherra	... Barry & Co.

**Chutla Bheel District Committee.**

Mr. F. W. Carpenter (Chairman & Hon. Secy.)	Bagh-O-Bahar	Geo. Henderson & Co.
„ A. P. Arehibald	Derby	... Octavious Steel & Co., Ltd.
„ A. F. Bendall ...	Boro-Jalingah...	James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
„ C. W. Slocock ...	Rosekandi	... Duncan Bros. & Co.
„ G. G. Hills ...	Kuttal	... McLeod & Co.
„ Geo. Gray ...	Chineoorie	... Villiers, Ltd.
„ W. B. R. McWha	Bhubandhar	... Macneill & Co.
„ H. M. Girling ...	Rukni	... Rukni Tea Co., Ltd.
„ J. D. Jowott ...	Monierkhall	... Davenport & Co., Ltd.
„ T. A. Blacklaws	Ruttonpore	... Jardine Skinner & Co., Ltd.

**Hailakandi District Committee.**

Name of Members	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. D. Paterson ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )	Aenakhall ...	<i>Jardin, Skinner &amp; Co.</i>
„ P. Trinkle ...	Dholai ...	<i>Duncan Bros. &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ R. H. Hossack ...	Koyah ...	<i>Macneill &amp; Co.</i>
„ J. C. Henderson	Roopacherra ...	<i>Begg, Dunlop &amp; Co.</i>
„ B. Gupta ...	Vernerpur ...	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.</i>
„ C. J. Shorey ...	Kalacherra ...	<i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ J. Murray ...	Manipore ...	<i>Gillanders, Arbutnot &amp; Co.</i>

**North Cachar District.**

Mr. C. W. Morley ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )	Jettinga Valley	<i>Begg, Dunlop &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ H. W. Anderson	Hatticherra ..	<i>Macneill &amp; Co.</i>
„ C. W. Alexander	Ballacherra ...	<i>Jardin, Skinner &amp; Co.</i>
„ V. Knott ...	Bierampore ...	<i>Duncan Bros. &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ R. B. Lungley ...	Kallinecherra ...	<i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ M. T. Beatts ...	Craigpark ...	<i>Barry &amp; Co.</i>

**Chargola-Longai District Committee.**

Mr. V. G. Every ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )	Pathini ...	<i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ A. T. Davies ...	Sephinjuri ...	<i>Williamson, Magor &amp; Co.</i>
„ T. E. Holbrook ...	Dullabeherra ...	<i>Duncan Bros. &amp; Co.</i>
„ H. A. Wray ...	Chargola ...	<i>James Finlay &amp; Co., Ltd.</i>
„ B. J. Lamb ...	Blubrigbat ...	<i>Private Gardens.</i>

**Mid-Sylhet District Committee.**

Name of Members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. F. J. Heatheote ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )	Dhamai	... <i>James Finlay &amp; Co.</i>
„ H. M. James	Shumsherdtgger	... <i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co.</i>
„ C. L. Reed	Ruthna	... <i>McLeod &amp; Co.</i>
„ F. W. Wilson	Phooltullah	... <i>Williamson Magor &amp; Co.</i>
„ H. N. McKenzie	Patrokola	... <i>Duncan Bros. &amp; Co.</i>
„ B. Chadburn	New Samanbagh	... <i>Shaw Wallace &amp; Co.</i>
„ J. H. Jewell	Ghazipore	... <i>Andrew Yule &amp; Co.</i>
„ P. Woodland	Lackatoora	... <i>J. Mackilloan &amp; Co.</i>
The Manager	Malnicherra	... <i>Barry &amp; Co.</i>

**Balisera District Committee.**

Mr. G. E. Rayner, ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )	Deanstou	... <i>James Finlay &amp; Co.</i>
„ R. P. Spashett	Mazdehee	... <i>Planters Stores &amp; Agency Co.</i>
„ G. S. Gloster	Sathgao	... <i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co.</i>
„ J. H. Wotherspoon	Mirzapore	... <i>Andrew Yule &amp; Co.</i>
„ E. Ray	Maulvie	... <i>Kilburn &amp; Co.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	Rasidpore	... <i>P. R. Buchanan &amp; Co.</i>

**Luskerpore District Committee.**

Mr. C. N. W. Grimshaw Surma ( <i>Chairman &amp; Hon. Secy.</i> )		.. <i>McLeod &amp; Co.</i>
„ A. Cleland	Chundeecherra	... <i>Octavius Steel &amp; Co. Ltd.</i>
„ G. E. Bates	Teliapara	.. <i>Duncan Bros. &amp; Co.</i>
„ J. W. Smart	Chandpore	... <i>Barry &amp; Co.</i>
„ G. I. Baxter	Deundi	... <i>Planter's Stores &amp; Agency Co.</i>
„ S. Parrot	Luskerpore	... <i>Shaw Wallace &amp; Co.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	Rasidpore	... <i>James Finlay &amp; Co.</i>
„ G. L. Bryning	Noyapara	... <i>Private Garden.</i>

**Representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea  
Association, Assam Legislative Council.**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.  
„ F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.

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**Assam Labour Board.**

Mr. G. E. Rayner.  
„ F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.  
„ S. A. Pearson.

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**Indian Tea Cess Committee.**

Mr. F. J. Heathcote, M.L.C.  
„ S. A. Pearson.

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**The Assam Road Board and Tea Rates Road Fund Board.**

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper, M.L.C.

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**Board of Referees under the Income-Tax Act.**

Mr. G. E. Rayner.

*List of Proprietors, Members of the Surma Valley Branch,  
India Tea Association, on the 30th June 1931.*

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultiva- tion.
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	<i>The Amalgamated Tea Estates Co. :—</i> Morapore Division ...	Acres. 380
	<i>The Anglo-American Direct Tea- Trading Co., Ltd. :—</i> Borojalingah & Allenpore Div.	750½
	<i>The Consolidated Tea &amp; Lands Co., Ltd. :—</i> Lulleecherra Divn. ... 1,739 Jafflong „ ... 973 Lallakhal „ ... 310 Goombira „ ... 1,455½ Baitakhal „ ... 465 Sagurnal „ ... 671½ Holicherra „ ... 538 Deanston „ ... 2,452½ Rajghat „ ... 2,394½ Balisera „ ... 1,459 Phulecherra „ ... 945 Amrail „ ... 1,974 Jagecherra „ ... 916½	16,293½
	<i>The Baraora (Sythe') Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Baraora Divn. ... 1,470½ Rasidpore „ ... 1,466 Daragaon „ ... 1,213 Fyzabad „ ... 220½	4,369½
	<i>The Chorgola Tea Association, Ltd. :—</i> Chorgola Divn. ... 1,484 Hingajea „ ... 694½ Singlacherra „ ... 1,013½ Maguracherra „ ... 599½	3,791½
	Carried over ...	25,585

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	25,585
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	<i>The Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dhamai Divn. ... 1,100	
	Kapnapahar „ ... 622	
	Sonarupa „ ... 751	
		2,473
	<i>The Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Noyapara Divn. ...	835
	<i>The Doloi Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Doloi Divn. ...	602
Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.	<i>Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Aenakhall Divn. ... 1,463	
	Singalla „ ... 769	
	Lallamookh „ ... 898	
	Lallacherra „ ... 691	
	Ruttonpore „ ... 772	
		4,593
	<i>Cachar &amp; Dooars Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Sileoorie Divn. ... 1,493	
	Poloi „ ... 677	
		2,170
	<i>Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Burnie Braes Divn. ... 785	
	Serispore „ ... 657	
		1,442
	<i>Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	889
	<i>Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	794
	<i>Kallinnggar &amp; Khorral Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	612
	Carried over ...	39,995

Calcutta Agents,	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acre.
	Brought forward ...	39,995
Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co.	Luskerpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	985
	New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.	1,000
	Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	913
	<i>Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silloah Divn. ... 811	
	Rajkie „ ... 840	1,651
Messrs. Macneill & Co	<i>Tarrapore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Labac Divn. } ...	5,741
	Dewan „ }	
	Burtoll „ }	
	<i>Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Scottpore } ...	1,349
	Pollarbund }	
	Narainpore }	
	<i>Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Haticherra } ...	1,435
	Doodputlee }	
	<i>Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	644
	<i>Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Jelalpore Divn.	973
	<i>Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Majagram Divn. ... 480	
	Subong „ ... 774	1,254
	<i>Kayah Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	744
	<i>Bhubandhar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ..	735
	<i>Kalline Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,310
	<i>Dilkhoosh Tea Estate</i> ...	471
	Carried over ...	59,200

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.		Area under tea cultivation.
			Acres.
	Brought forward	...	59,200
Messrs. Barry & Co.	<i>Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	...	580
	<i>Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	...	401
	<i>Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>		
	Chandpore Divn.	... 1,407	
	Parkul „	... 480	
			1,887
	<i>Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	... ..	683
Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	<i>Doloo Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	...	1,584
	<i>Jalanga Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	...	725
	<i>North Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>		
	Kurkoorie Divn.	... 922	
	Bierampore „	... 1,014	
			1,936
	<i>Chandighat Tea Estate.</i>	...	738
	<i>Amo Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>		
	Amo Divn.	... 881	
	Nalua „	... 675	
			1,556
	<i>Teliapara Tea Estate</i>	...	768
	<i>Satchurte „ „</i>	...	397
	<i>Allynuggar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>		
	Allynuggar Divn.	... 1,753	
	Chatlapore	... 1,214	
			2,967
	<i>Patrokola Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>		
	Patrokola Divn.	... 1,113	
	Kurmah „	... 1,020	
	Madabpore „	... 765	
	Champarai „	... 933	
	Rampore & Burkhola	... 844	
			4,675
	Carried over	...	78,097



Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	78,097
Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	<i>India Tea Co. of Coochar, Ltd. :—</i>	
	Rosekandy ...	1,228
	<i>Kukicherra Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kukicherra Divn. ... 519	
	Dholai „ ... 820	1,339
	<i>New Kuncheupore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	619
	<i>Dauracherra Tea Estate ...</i>	559
	<i>Clerdon Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	506
	<i>Borokhai Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	717
	<i>East India &amp; Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	
	Dullabcherra Divn. 4,114	
	Mookhamecherra „ 832	2,246
Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co.	<i>British India Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Urrunabund Divn. ...	519
Messrs. Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	<i>Jettinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Jetinga Divn. 429	
	Koomber „ 1,200	
	Larsingah „ 632	2,261
	<i>Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	548
	<i>South Coochar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Jaffirbund ...	384
	Carried over ...	89,023

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	89,023
Messrs. Walker, Goward & Co.	<i>Doyapore Tea Estate</i> ...	401½
Messrs. McLeod & Co.	<i>Imperial Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kuttal Divn. 613	
	Surma „ 1,124	
		1,737
	<i>Rutema Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Ruthna Divn. 567	
	Rema „ 655	
		1,222
	<i>Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dooloogram Divn. 494	
	Pathecherra „ 669	
		1,163
Messrs. Williamson Magor & Co.	<i>New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Phooltullah ...	1,181
	<i>Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Sephinjuri Divn. }	
	Tilbhoom „ }	
		2,020
Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	<i>Manipore Tea Estate</i> ...	295½
Messrs. Villiers, Ltd.	<i>Chincoorie Tea Estate</i> ...	350
Messrs. J. Mackillican & Co.	<i>Arcuttipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	861
	<i>Lackhatoora Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,200
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	<i>Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Alyne Divn. ... 321	
	Pathemara „ ... 520	
		848
	Carried over ...	100,331½

Calcutta Agents	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
		Aeres.
	Brought forward ...	100,331 $\frac{3}{4}$
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	<i>Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandkhira Divn. } Longai & Adam Tila } Divn. }	... 2,052
	<i>Chundeecherra Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	492
	<i>Derby Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,170
	<i>Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,237
	<i>Endogram Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	721
	<i>Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hattikhira } Solgai }	... 2,334
	<i>Bulderpore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	420
	<i>Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	400
	<i>Kalacheera Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	460
	<i>Loobacherra Tea Estate</i> } <i>Kallinecherra Tea Estate</i> }	... 465 1,175
	<i>Luagla (Sythet) Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Luagla Divn. } Shumshernuggar " } Kannyhatti " } Etah & Burtumsal " } Karimpore " } Sooncherra " }	... 5,858
	<i>Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Pathini } Champabari } Piplagool }	... 1,948 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<i>Sathyao Tea Estate</i> ...	872
	<i>Tilkah Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	770
	<i>Isa Bleck Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,000
	Carried over ...	121,241

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 121,241
Planters's Stores & Agency Co., Ltd.	<i>Deundi Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Deundi Division ... 1,373 Lalehand „ ... 900 <sup>3</sup> Mertinga „ ... 458 Luayuni „ ... 352	3,083 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub>
	<i>Mazdeber Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ... 600 Roopabally T. E. ... 100	
Messrs. Martin & Co.	<i>Bidganaggar Tea Estate</i> ... 846	
Messrs. Kilburn & Co.	<i>Montrie Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ... 622	
Messrs. Geo. Henderson & Co., Ltd.	<i>Iriganagar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Bagh-O-Bahar T. E. ... 398	
Messrs. Davenport & Co., Ltd.	<i>Sonai River Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i> Monierkhal T. E. ... 512	
Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	<i>Mirzapore Tea Estate</i> ... 551 <i>Ghazipur Tea Estate</i> ... 570	
Messrs. Barlow & Co.	<i>Chingoor Tea Estates</i> ... 759 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub>	
Messrs. Crozier's Agency Ltd.	<i>Amranagar Tea Estate</i> ... 92 <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub>	
Private Gardens.	<i>Rukni Tea Estate</i> ... 460 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub> <i>Parbatpore Tea Estate</i> ... 500 <i>Bhubrighat Tea Estate</i> ... 693 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub> <i>Gobindpur Tea Estate</i> ... 600 <i>Ecaligool &amp; Binodini Tea Estate...</i> 625	
	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd. :—</i> Vernerpore Divn. ... 350 Sabazpore „ ... 280 Dwarbund „ ... 446 <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub>	1,076 <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub>
	<i>Cullacherra Tea Estate</i> ... 280 <i>Sribari Tea Estate</i> ... 291 <i>Bundookmara Tea Estate</i> ... 400 <i>Apin Tea Estate</i> ... 212	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	134,544 <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub>







